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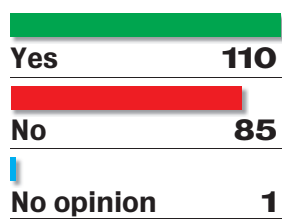
MONDAY APRIL 4, 2011

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POLL RESULTS

Do you agree that installing power poles in Marpi will destroy the tourist spot's natural beauty?



Sunday, April 03, 2011

INSIDE



Japan Fundraiser

Even with the overcast skies and heavy downpour, community members gathered together Saturday to support the biggest fundraising event.

Local...Page 8



Costly Cancellation

Southwest Airlines Co.'s decision to cancel about 300 flights Saturday may have cost the airline several million dollars in lost revenue.

Business...Page 14



Inglorious Debut

Charlie Sheen showed that comedic success on the screen doesn't necessarily translate to the stage.

Life & Style...Page 20

Casino investor invites CNMI elected officials to China. PAGE 2
Only \$1.2M allotment so far provided to MVA. PAGE 3

Drastic cuts in Fitial's \$102M budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's \$102 million budget submission for fiscal year 2012 may be amended three months before the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year and this is contingent upon the actual privatization of the Department of Public Health as early as July and the impact of Japan's crisis on the local economy.



Fitial

See **DRASTIC** on Page 4

Manuel S. Villagomez, 87

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Manuel S. Villagomez, one of the CNMI's pioneer entrepreneurs, passed away early Friday morning at his home in Fina Sisu with his family by his side. He was 87.

Villagomez, fondly called Ta Ne' Kiyu, is a major co-sponsor of the Joten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

He founded various business ventures under the MSV flagship of companies, after growing up during the Japanese occupation of the Northern Marianas and through World War II.

One of his 12 children, Patricia Cepeda, said yesterday that they have al-

See **MANUEL** on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

UP AND AWAY

Three-year-old Kylie Sablan, right, tries to maneuver her giant kite while her mother Trinny looks on at the American Memorial Park, where a Marianas Winds Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair was supposed to be held yesterday afternoon. Despite the postponement of the Brilliant Star Montessori School and the Marianas Visitors Authority's kite festival due to the bad weather the night before, families and kite enthusiasts still showed up to fly their kites on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

See story on Page 7

Covenant, Republican merger pushed anew

» **Blue Ribbon Committee says thousands to rejoin governor**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial pushed anew for a merger of the Covenant and Republi-

can Parties on Saturday night but in the meantime, he called on Covenants to join him at the Republican Party which reaccepted him in January this year.

Fitial, one of the founders and longest

'CUC tanks endanger people, environment'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. problem tanks continue to endanger the lives of people and the environment, according

to its deputy director for power systems rehabilitation Wallon Young Fong.

In his testimony to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, Fong revealed that none of the CUC tanks have gone through a formal permitting pro-

cess last year and only three tanks have received permits as of March 9.

He said due to the fact that the islands are prone to typhoons, with wind gusts exceeding 200 kmph, it is not safe to leave

See **COVENANT** on Page 4

'CUC tanks endanger people, environment'

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He said due to the fact that the islands are prone to typhoons, with wind gusts exceeding 200 kmph, it is not safe to leave

See **CUC** on Page 4



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Local

Casino investor invites CNMI elected officials to China

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Casino investor Bridge Investment Group has invited to China some elected CNMI officials that included Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and lawmakers, but the trip scheduled for today has been moved to a later date.

The visit to Tian Jin, China is seen to strengthen the partnership between the CNMI and Bridge Investment as the latter pursues its \$40 million to \$50 million casino and condominium project on Tinian.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, executive vice president of Bridge Investment Group-CNMI op-

erations, said yesterday that the trip has been "postponed," but did not comment further.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, confirmed that Bridge Investment invited the governor to China.

"At this time though, it appears the governor has no scheduled trips since he is undergoing physical therapy," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The supposed trip of elected officials is to be funded by the municipality of Tinian, sources said.

It comes about a month after Bridge Investment Group co-owners Howard Li and Eric Wang met with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to express their continued

support and interest on building their project.

The project was hampered by the inability of the construction contractor to bring in workers from China because of federal immigration restrictions.

As of yesterday, the lawmakers reported to be invited and considering making the trip included Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan).

Other lawmakers could also be in the trip or could back out from it, now that the schedule

has been changed, sources said.

Just like Mendiola-Long, the lawmakers declined to comment further on the purpose of the trip other than saying it will help bolster the CNMI economy and show goodwill toward foreign investors willing to invest in the Commonwealth in these tough economic times.

Bridge Investment halted construction at its staff housing on Tinian almost two years ago because, among other things, over 100 Chinese employees of its contractor left the CNMI ahead of the November 2009 federal takeover of local border control. The construction contractor is the China-based TinYuan Construction Group.

The investor group said even up to now, there's still no clear guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on the hiring of foreign workers.

DHS missed its second self-imposed deadline of March 2011 to produce the CNMI-only transition worker rule that will govern the employment of foreign workers at least until 2014.

Bridge Investment had planned to build a \$200-million project on Tinian, but scaled it down to \$40 million to \$50 million in early 2008 because of the economic crunch and uncertainties in immigration.

It secured a license to operate a casino on Tinian in 2005. The project, called Tinian Oceanview Resort and Casino, would

have 396 rooms—268 condominium units and 128 hotel rooms—and 30,000 square feet of casino/banquet area based on an earlier project plan.

Once the casino and condominium project is completed, Bridge Investment projects \$92 million in annual Tinian tourist revenue and the creation of job opportunities.

But it said these economic forecasts are based only on continued access to the China tourist market and any subsequent changes to the ease of access to that market will negatively impact these current projections.

Only Tinian and Rota have legal casino operators. Saipan voters twice rejected casino operation on their island.

Cohen gives Saipan a glimpse of 'Beer Summit'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Despite the heavy rains on Saturday night, former U.S. Interior deputy assistant secretary David Cohen's special Saipan preview of his public affairs television series, "Beer Summit," warmed up the crowd at Wild Bill's in Garapan. PBS Guam will air the series premier on KGTF-TV Channel 12 on Tuesday, April 5, at 8pm.

The show will assume its regular weekly time slot on Tuesday, April 12, at 7:30pm.

The idea behind "Beer Summit" is to help improve the civility of public discourse on even the most contentious of national and international issues such as abortion, gay rights, the war on terror, education, health care reform, and immigration—over non-alcoholic drinks.

During Saturday night's preview on Saipan, Cohen showed a sample of the series which focused on abortion—with former representative Tina Sablan of Saipan and former White House official Ramona Jones of Guam taking opposing positions on the issue.

But because "Beer Summit" has a unique twist, Cohen as the television show host also functions as a mediator and finds common ground on the divisive issue of abortion instead of highlighting the points on which Sablan and Jones disagreed on.

Cohen, an attorney by training, tried to get the two on the same page. In the end, the two guests who came in with opposing viewpoints left the show with fewer differences.

Cohen also gave a preview of another segment wherein former White House official Juan Carlos Benitez and "The Big Show" host Travis Coffman were guests on the topic of education.

For every point they agreed on, the guests and the host

would toast and drink the non-alcoholic beverage in front of them.

In an interview after the preview, Cohen said he has long planned to host a public affairs show, one of the projects he's doing outside the law practice. He is also producing a movie.

"When I left the law firm, I started doing other projects but not in the role as a lawyer. Business projects that are hopefully will pan out over time and this is one of them. This is my favorite," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

While set in the U.S. island of Guam, the issues discussed and debated are of national and international importance, and in which a Saipan resident, for example, could relate to the series as much as a resident of California or American Samoa does.

As the series' opening scene says, Cohen's "Beer Summit" was loosely inspired by President Obama's White House "beer summit" with the Harvard professor and the policeman who arrested him.

And despite the heavy rains, the Saipan crowd warmed up to the idea of an entertaining, educational, and experimental series.

Among those in attendance were U.S. Labor ombudsman Pam Brown, assistant U.S. attorney Jim Benedetto, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Malae, Office of Insular Affairs' Jeff Schorr, and former representative Tina Sablan.

Sablan said she liked the idea of promoting civility in discourse, and the fact that it was Cohen who's hosting the series that she said "yes" to being a guest on the show.

Charles Warren, CUC chief financial officer who was at the premier showing, along with his wife Faga, said it's an enjoyable and enlightening show that he said should also be watched by others in the community.

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Only \$1.2M allotment so far provided to MVA

» **Unfulfilled obligations in FY'10, 90-day past due accounts still about \$2M**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority, the agency tasked to promote the destination and improve the CNMI's only industry, has so far received only \$1.2 million in total allotments for the current fiscal year—an amount that reflects only 20 percent of its approved budget of \$6.2 million.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* that if they had to follow the proper allotment schedule, the agency was supposed to

Hawaii immigration judge to hear 18 removal cases

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A federal immigration judge from Hawaii is set to conduct more hearings today, Monday, in removal cases filed before the Saipan U.S. Immigration Court against several persons mostly those who have criminal records.

U.S. Immigration Judge Dayna Beamer is going to hear today 18 removal cases.

To be heard in the morning are cases are filed against Faustino Joe Elias, Catherine Lopena Torres, Ai Ping Cao Taitano, Hilario Angui, Etumai Felix Mtoched, Catherine Alday Torculas, Baofang Li, Fu Chen, Juyel Ahmed, Ali Nawaz, Omar Nawaz, Hassan Nawaz, Kai Zong Lin, Khalid Nawaz, and Zhi Qin Huang.

In the afternoon, the judge will hear the cases against Qing Kuang, Yan Feng Yu, and Mariano Angkel Shiano.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, Judge Beamer will hear removal cases filed against six persons—John Sikyang, Crizaldo Valdez, Minto Minto, Zhoumin Wang, Jianli Tan, and Jiancheng Huang.

The judge is set to hear more cases until Friday.

Last Tuesday, March 29, the judge conducted hearings through video some removal cases. Fifteen cases were set for hearings that day, but it was not clear yet whether all cases were heard.

Saipan Tribune counted over 100 removal cases that have been with the Saipan Immigration Court since the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009. The immigration court had already declared many of those as removable, but were allowed to voluntarily depart the CNMI.

Many CNMI lawyers are impressed with the smooth and orderly proceedings in the U.S. Immigration Court. Judges would readily provide respondents with interpreters on the phones.

receive \$3.1 million by the end of March, which marks the sixth month of the fiscal year.

This FY 2011, MVA anticipates to receive approximately

\$6.38 million of which only 13 percent covers personnel cost, while 87 percent is allocated for operations. Each month, MVA expects to receive \$533,000 allotment from the general fund to cover its operations and promotional activities.

Jobless man arrested for allegedly cultivating 126 marijuana plants near school

Police arrested on Thursday night a jobless man who allegedly cultivated 126 marijuana plants in his backyard located next to Sister Remedios School in Chalan Kanoa.

Lambert Reyes was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance and manufacturing of controlled substance.

During Friday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos imposed a \$2,000 cash bail on Reyes.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 7 at 9am.

At the hearing, chief prosecutor Michael Ernest called to the witness stand Detective Sean White, who narrated to the court about their investigation that led to the arrest of Reyes and the

confiscation of 126 marijuana plants and other illegal drug paraphernalia.

Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig was appointed to represent Reyes.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Attorney General has filed an amended information charging Ronnie L. Aguon and Mario F. Peter with possession of a controlled substance for allegedly possessing marijuana on Feb. 26, 2011.

In addition, the OAG charged the 19-year-old Peter with minor consuming alcohol and contempt for allegedly consuming an alcoholic beverage and violated a previous court's order on Feb. 26, 2011. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Because of the "delayed" allotments as a result of the dwindling government resources and revenues, Tenorio said this negatively impact the ability of MVA to fulfill its obligations.

"MVA did carry forward some liabilities from fiscal year 2010 and what we're doing now is technically trying to catch up. We're using our current money to pay these prior year's obligations," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He disclosed that MVA has

still unpaid obligation covering September 2010, under the last fiscal year. "I have one month

to pay for these past dues in FY 2010 so technically we're six months in arrears [in current fiscal year]."

MVA's unpaid obligations on 90-day past due accounts in current fiscal year now amount to about \$1 million, while \$1.1 million is owed to its travel partners in Japan and offshore offices in South Korea.



Tenorio

During Thursday's special meeting, the MVA board adopted the decision to keep its constant communication with the finance department to ensure that the administration is aware of the agency's condition.

Tenorio said MVA is currently operating under baseline mode, which means operating as needed to ensure offshore offices are open and accessible to travel partners and potential visitors, while refraining from expending large capital in marketing and promotions.

He added that if only the agency is in a better financial position, MVA would continue to receive the "confidence" of local and international vendors and partners.

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Smart Choice

Prefiled bill seeks to regulate microchip implantation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) prefiled on Friday a bill seeking to regulate human microchip implantation in the CNMI.

The freshman lawmakers said her CNMI Microchip Consent Act of 2011 is not intended to prohibit human microchip implantations, but is generally a first step in regulating a procedure that has raised health and privacy concerns.

In her bill's findings, Santos said the Legislature is taking a proactive

measure aimed at anticipating technological advances that may infringe on people's rights and, more importantly, a proactive attempt to prevent potential abuses of this emergent technology.

Microchip technology has been widely used for pets and livestock for a number of years, but has only recently been developed for human use.

In October 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared a radio frequency identification microchip for medical and security use in humans.

"Civil libertarians warn that human implantation has not received enough

debate and may put us on a slippery slope toward a system of human numbering. They contend that human microchip implantations will first be sold to the populace as being beneficial, fun, and ultraconvenient, convincing many that microchip implantation are benign," the bill adds.

The bill says some worry that mass implantation will lead to a large-scale abuse; thus, the need to regulate the procedure to address health and privacy reasons.

"Microchip," as defined in the bill, means any micro-device, sensor,

tivity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated. The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (EMO)

Military training at FDM, W-517

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Force Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military unit would be conducting military training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla and at W-517 irregular polygen-South of Guam.

Farallon De Mendenilla, CVW-5 military training

April 2, 8am-1pm

April 4-5, 9am-9:30pm

April 6-7, 8am-9pm

April 8, 9am-1pm

April 9, 8am-1pm

April 15, 8am-5pm (W517) HSC-25

The general locations for this activity will on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a ten nautical mile radius on all quadrants and W-517 irregular polygon- South Guam compromising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace begins south of Guam and extended south-southwest into international waters.

Due to the danger imposed by this ac-

terday on the passing of Villagomez, whom they described as a "pioneering entrepreneur" who founded various business ventures under the MSV flagship of companies.

"Lt. Gov. Inos and I extend our condolences to the children and the entire family of the late Manuel Villagomez, fondly known as Ta Ne' Kiyu," Fitial said.

Villagomez was born on Jan. 24, 1924, grew up during the Japanese occupation, and witnessed the Battle of Saipan between American troops and Japanese soldiers.

Inos, for his part, said Villagomez "soon became a pioneering entrepreneur for the local community through the various business ventures under the MSV flagship of companies."

He said "the esteemed gentleman and avid baseball fan was also a major co-sponsor to the lone public library, properly named the Joeten Kiyu Public Library."

Fitial said just a couple of days before Villagomez's passing, he paid a visit to "this fine patriarch at his home."

tion the ability to generate additional revenues through increased billing and collections that would result from a recently approved contract to outsource the hospital's billing and collection services," Fitial said in his budget transmittal to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

The Legislative Branch also got \$4.224 million in 2012, compared to \$5.609 million in 2011.

Rota's budget went down from 6.256 million to \$4.474 million, while Tinian also went down from \$6.256 million to \$4.361 million because the municipalities are no longer expected to fund the operations of the Rota and Tinian Health Centers.

Saipan and Northern Islands also got a budget cut, from \$1.464 million to \$1.219 million.

Boards and commissions get \$449,114, down from \$539,607.

Independent programs, however, received \$11 million more, or from \$9.774 million to \$21.221 million.

Other programs received a \$1.354

"I fondly recalled his love of baseball and his passion for the San Francisco Giants. It is truly no coincidence that this honorable man bid farewell during the opening day games of Major League Baseball. Manuel Kiyu's passing is a deep loss for our Commonwealth. He will be sorely missed," the governor said in a statement.

A nightly Rosary is held at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8pm. From Tuesday onwards, the Rosary will start at 7pm.

Cepeda said the funeral Mass will be on Friday, April 8, at the Mount Carmel Cathedral starting at 1pm. The burial follows.

Besides Cepeda, the other children of Villagomez and wife Luise are Linda Cepeda, former senator Thomas Villagomez, Barbara Wesley, Manuel Villagomez, Jr., Joseph Villagomez, Edward Villagomez, David Villagomez, Nora Borja, John Villagomez, Ramona Manglona, and Antonia Jerome.

Villagomez's passing comes almost a year after five generations of the Villagomez clan held a family reunion in July.

reduction, from \$39.219 million to \$37,864 million.

Compact-Impact remains at \$1.930 million, while expense transfers went down to \$3.28 million from \$3.577 million.

The Department of Public Safety got more funding of \$8.560 million, because of the planned merger of DPS and the Department of Corrections in 2012.

The Public School System and Northern Marianas College get \$34.1 million, while utilities budget is down to \$5.05 million.

The governor's budget retains the 16-hour cut per pay period and unpaid holidays, among other austerity measures.

Fitial's budget submission also reflects 33 percent of the budget goes to education, 30 percent to general government, 8 percent to public safety, 6 percent to economic development, 5 percent to health, 5 percent to utilities, 3 percent to the judicial branch, 3 percent to the legislative branch, 3 percent to lands and natural resources, and 3 percent to elected officials.

transmitter, mechanism, electronically readable marking, or nanotechnology that is passively or actively capable of transmitting or receiving information.

The bill also defines "implant" as any means intended to introduce a microchip internally, beneath the skin, or applied to the skin of a person.

Under the bill, "no person shall be required to be implanted with a microchip."

It also says any person who implants

a microchip in violation of this section shall be guilty of assault.

Any person required to have a microchip implanted in violation of this section may file a civil action for damages.

It also says the voluntary implantation of any microchip may only be performed by a physician and shall be regulated under the authority of the Health Care Professions Licensing Board.

COVENANT

From Page 1

for Covenants to join the GOP, and to eventually merge the two political parties.

Rasa said they expect some 2,400 application forms to be filled out to join the Republican Party. He said so far, he has some 1,100 filled out forms with him.

"That's a substantial number," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "I will be turning over these forms to the Republican Party soon."

The Blue Ribbon Committee, which Rasa said consists of Covenants and Republicans, has two goals; the first of which has been achieved—for the governor and others to join the Covenant Party.

"There's been an issue whether these are voluntary or they signed under duress. We're not forcing anyone to fill out the application form. The governor is also requesting. If they want to remain with the Covenant, he respects that," Rasa said.

The second goal is to merge the two political parties, something that many Republican Party members opposed a few months back.

The Republican Party has yet to hold a general membership meeting which was supposed to be in February, said party president Juan I. Tenorio.

Fitial met with the Blue Ribbon Committee on Saturday night at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Rasa said among those also in attendance and supporters of the merger were Covenant Party officials and

members Martin Sablan, Oscar M. Babauta, Ed Deleon Guerrero, Joe Li-foifoi, Antonio Rasiang, Joe Camacho, Viola Alepuyo, J.P. San Nicolas, Alvaro Santos, Dolores Aldan, and Angie Mangarero. Ike Demapan, who is not a committee member, also showed up.

One of those present at the meeting said he supports the push for the merger and to have a Republican CNMI governor, which the committee said will help the CNMI get more attention in the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress.

"The Republican National Committee would have want a Republican governor... and sooner or later, there won't be sufficient funding to operate this government and we need the U.S. Congress help. This is also to develop better relationship with the Congress," Rasa said.

But Rasa said there's a faction in the Covenant Party now—those who want to rejoin Fitial in the Republican Party and those who want to stay with the Covenant Party.

Covenant Party members just held a meeting on March 24, which was also the 35th anniversary of the presidential signing of the Covenant that established the Northern Marianas' political relationship with the United States.

In that meeting, members that included Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos reelected officers for 2011 led by president Greg "Kazuma" Camacho.

Rasa said yesterday that Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao resigned some two days after he was reelected first vice chair of the Covenant Party. Rasa said Faisao also left the Covenant Party.

CUC

From Page 1

tanks empty after cleaning and inspection. He said immediate repair must be undertaken and the tanks filled in.

Fong also pointed out that it is important to prove to the regulatory agencies—Division of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—that the tanks do not pose any environmental risk when used for handling petroleum products.

Fong said the tank cleanouts were due last Feb. 15, 2011 but was not accomplished because of lack of funds which continue to hinder CUC's ability to compete other requirements.

Among the requirements of the federal stipulated order 2, three were cited as the top priorities that need immediate resolution. The tank cleanup and replacement is among them.

Fong disclosed that two oil storage tanks are needed at power plants 1 and 2 and currently, CUC has only one tank in service which is Tank 103. EPA believes that Tank 103 is leaking oil and must be emptied, clean, and inspect immediately.

To do this, Fong disclosed that CUC needs another tank which they can transfer oil that can serve as a working tank.

"It is not ideal for CUC to have only one working tank, and we should have

two. But our emergency need is for us to be able to empty Tank 103. I estimate that Tank 104, which is a million-gallon tank, will take approximately \$1.5 million to repair," said Fong, adding that CUC is looking into acquiring a 500,000 gallon tank instead which should meet CUC's needs and also cost less approximately \$800,000.

This project, he said, is among the highest immediate priorities for the EPA.

Fong, in the same testimony to CPUC, added that there are other tanks that need repairs and other works such as Tank 104 which is up for cleanup.

Other problem tanks of CUC included Tanks 105, 106, 101, 102, 107, 107b, 108 at Power Plant 1; Rota tanks R21, R2, R3, and R4.

It was revealed that some floors of these tanks are corroded and CUC will have to replace holes on the bottom of Tank 104.

Fong cited the following as the sequence of work in addressing the problem tanks: tank emptying, tank cleaning, inspection, undertake immediate repairs before putting the tank back into operation, hydrostatic test, and permitting.

CUC currently is seeking a rate adjustment on the customers' electric base rate and continue to seek long-term debt to finance all the requirements of the stipulated orders.

DRASTIC

From Page 1

This is \$30 million less than the FY 2011 original budget of \$132 million, and is close to the budget of some 20 years ago.

DPH's projected collection from hospital charges estimated at \$18 million was no longer included in the amount available for appropriation, bringing down the original estimate of \$120 million to \$102 million as of the April 1 deadline for budget submission.

Of the three branches, the Judiciary is the only one with increased budget—from \$3.322 million in FY 2011 to \$4 million in 2012.

The Executive Branch's budget was drastically reduced by \$35.265 million, or from \$64.659 million in 2011 to only \$29.394 million in 2012.

This is because DPH was no longer funded, except for \$5 million which Fitial said will be used to provide startup capital for the HealthCare Corporation.

"This will afford the new corpora-

Parents sue Palms Resort owner for negligence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The parents of a minor girl have filed a lawsuit against the owner of Palms Resort Saipan over serious injuries she suffered when she fell about 28 feet from the hotel's lobby to ground level last May.

Antonio R. Cabrera and Bi Rui H. Cabrera sued the Micronesian Resort Inc., owner of the 313-room Palms Resort Saipan

in San Roque, for negligence and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

The Cabrera couple, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, asked the Superior Court to order the defendant pay them compensatory damages.

As of press time yesterday, Palms Resort's counsel, Robert T. Torres, had yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comment.

Fitzgerald stated in the com-

plaint that on May 9, 2010, the Cabrera couple, along with their infant son and 5-year-old daughter, went to Palms Resort for the Mother's Day brunch at the main dining room located on the ground level below the lobby.

After finishing their meal, the Cabrera family proceeded to the elevator area intending to take the elevator to the first floor lobby and then leave the hotel.

Mrs. Cabrera pushed the

call button of the elevator, then her daughter rushed from her side and into the elevator, which doors had opened then quickly closed.

The elevator ascended with the daughter inside, before Mrs. Cabrera could reach the elevator.

Mrs. Cabrera ran back up the stairs to the first floor, looking for their daughter.

Mr. Cabrera, who was with their infant son in a stroller, took the next elevator up to the

first floor and also looked for their daughter.

The daughter in the meantime, had gotten off the elevator on the first floor, looking for her parents.

Knowing her parents were on ground level, the daughter climbed up onto the flower holder, which overlooked the ground level.

Fitzgerald said this area of the flower holder did not have the protective bar, which the other parts had.

The lawyer said the girl stood up to try to see her parents because the overhang of the flowers made the flower holder appear wider than it actually was.

Fitzgerald said because there was no protective bar as the girl stood up, she lost her balance and fell violently to the ground level, landing in a patch of flowers miraculously missing various sharp concrete surfaces.

After frantically searching for their daughter on the upper lev-

els and the lobby, the parents returned to the lower level where they found her, bruised, broken, and seriously injured.

The couple saw their daughter sitting in a flower bed, moaning, "Daddy, I'm hurt!"

An ambulance later arrived and the girl was placed on a backboard and taken to the hospital where she was found to have suffered numerous bruises and contusions, as well as fractures of her arms and legs.

Fitzgerald said defendant's negligence includes positioning the elevator call button on a pole 15 feet from the doors of the elevator; providing an elevator whose doors closed unreasonably fast after the button was pushed; failure to provide adequate security in the lobby, thereby allowing a little girl to wander alone; and failure to provide a protective device to prevent children from climbing onto the flower bed overlooking the drop off to the ground level.

Lawyer, wife seek dismissal of racketeering conspiracy claim against them

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife have asked the federal court to dismiss the racketeering conspiracy claim in the second amended lawsuit filed by an investor.

Attorney Michael W. Dotts, counsel for Ramon Quichocho, Frances C. Quichocho, the Quichocho law firm, and the couple's company, Karissa LLC, asserted that the defects in plaintiff Jung Ja Kim's conspiracy theory are so pervasive they cannot be cured by repleading, and should therefore be dismissed.

Dotts noted that the second

amended complaint is Kim's third attempt to manufacture a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) conspiracy claim against his clients.

Dotts said Kim added six more paragraphs to her RICO conspiracy claim, but as with the original complaint and the first amended complaint, she "has not successfully asserted a predicate act of racketeering against Karissa LLC and the Quichocho law office."

The lawyer said plaintiff also failed to properly allege

an agreement to violate RICO against all defendants.

Specifically, Dotts said, the second amended complaint has not properly alleged a RICO agreement against any of the defendants.

"Once again, the plaintiff alleges 'agreement' in only general and formulate manner, but only as against Karissa LLC and the Law Office, LLC," Dotts said.

Kim filed last month the second amended complaint after the U.S. District Court for the NMI granted the Quichocho

couple's motion to dismiss the RICO conspiracy claim. The judge, however, allowed her to amend the claim.

In the second amended complaint, Kim, through counsel Colin Thompson, sued the defendants for RICO violation.

She also sued Mr. Quichocho and his law firm for legal malpractice-professional negligence and breach of fiduciary duty. She is also suing the couple and the law office, for breach of lease agreements. In addition, she is suing the couple for conversion, fraud, and constructive trust.

Kim alleged that the defendants defrauded her of two of her poker businesses under the guise of protecting her from litigation by her former husband and his family and helping her through a period of depression. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Brother-in-law of Labor investigator arrested for marijuana

The brother-in-law of a Labor investigator who was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly cultivating marijuana plants, was also apprehended that day on charges that he assaulted a detective.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Paul King Manglona, 33, was arrested for assault and battery, and obstructing justice.

Manglona was taken to the Superior Court on Wednesday afternoon for a Gerstein hearing.

Gerstein hearing is conducted when the arrest of a suspect is done without an arrest warrant. In this proceeding, the judge will determine if there is probable cause to continue to detain the defendant.

Assistant Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed to represent Manglona, while assistant attorney general Peter Prestley appeared for the government.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a bail of \$200 cash

and \$1,800 unsecured bond for Manglona's temporary release.

Inos found probable cause that there was sufficient evidence for the arrest and continued detention of Manglona.

The judge ordered the defendant to stay away from the alleged victim, Detective Dennis Reyes.

Detectives proceeded on Tuesday to the residence of Labor investigator Joseph Leon Guerrero Villagomez in Dandan to serve the arrest and search warrant for Villagomez for allegedly cultivating marijuana plants.


Aside from several marijuana

plants seized, detectives also allegedly recovered undetermined amount of "ice" during the search in the house.

Manglona, brother-in-law of Villagomez, later arrived at the house, but Detective Reyes stopped him from coming in.

Manglona allegedly hit Reyes on the arm, prompting another detective to handcuff the defendant.

Villagomez was also taken to court on Wednesday afternoon on charges of illegal possession of a controlled substance and trafficking of a controlled substance. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*




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BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated birthday greetings go out to Daril Hermogenes, who celebrated his 14th birthday last April 3. We hope you had fun on your special day. Happy birthday and we wish you more birthdays to come. Message from: Royce, Rane, and Roxanne.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

27 students hailed winners in NFL, NJFL regionals

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirteen middle school students and 14 students from local high schools were named official representatives of the CNMI in the national competition later this year after bagging gold medals in the regional national forensic and national junior forensic leagues held at Marianas High School Saturday.

Both NFL and NJFL winners will vie for national titles against students from 53 other U.S. states in a competition set in June 2011 in Dallas, Texas.

For the National Junior Forensic League, hailed gold medalists were Mount Carmel School's Venny Revilla for humorous interpretation; Grace Christian Academy's Angela Cruz for dramatic interpretation; GCA's Yu Jin Lee for prose; MCS' Darvhan Moses for poetry; GCA's Dong Ha Lee for storytelling; Calvary Christian Academy's Minna Ito for original oratory; Marianas Baptist Academy's Robert Solis for extemporaneous; GCA's Katrina Punzalan for impromptu; and MBA's Solomon Ko and Woo Woo Choi for duo interpretation. NJFL also allotted two slots for the regional winners of the Chamorro and Carolinian language competition, completing the 13-student slate of the NJFL team.

In the high school division, named members of the CNMI team for NFL are Saipan Southern High School's Min Joo Jung, who emerged champion in the Lincoln Douglas debate; MBA's Chan Woo Lee for extemporaneous; MBA's Se Young Hwang for foreign extemporaneous; MCS' Anastasia Schweiger for humorous

interpretation; MCS' Janela Revilla for dramatic interpretation; CCA's Midori Nishida for original oratory; Marianas High School's Angeline Shahagun and Serverino Alforenza for duo

interpretation; MHS' Matthew Lopez for prose; CCA's Francis Fidelino for poetry; GCA's Glen Paul Florendo for expository; MBA's Jessica Im Lee for foreign extemporaneous; MCS'

John Edward Elenzano for storytelling; and MHS' Eron Constanter for impromptu.

MBA's Robert Solis, gold medalist for the NJFL extemporaneous category, said

he didn't expect to win and was surprised to be included in the CNMI team that will represent the Commonwealth in the nationals.

Solis, who believes that better practice is the best preparation for the national event, said he's looking forward to a great experience.

Gold medalist Glen Paul Florendo of GCA also expressed elation on the turnout of the regional competition. He won first in the expository speech for the national forensic league.

This year marked Florendo's second time to the national event. He was with the CNMI team during his eighth grade after winning the Lincoln Douglas debate. Last Saturday, he also bagged the second place honor for original oratory and third prize award for Lincoln Douglas debate.

NFL board chairman in the

CNMI Harold Easton and regional competition coordinator Andrew Golden said Saturday night that this is the first time that two divisions were held simultaneously on island and in the national.

As a rule, they explained that students who bagged more than one gold medal must select the best category he/she will represent in the national so next slots will be made available for the silver medal awardees.

NFL and NJFL started the regional rounds last week and which awarding rites took place at MHS gymnasium last Saturday beginning 10 pm.

The NFL is a nonprofit educational honor society established to encourage and motivate American high school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: debate, public speaking, and interpretations.



National Forensic League winners pose for a group photo after the awarding rites Saturday night at Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The gold medal awardees of the National Junior Forensic League competition pose during the awarding ceremony Saturday night.

Regents accept Adam's withdrawal; defers decision on their next option

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents on Friday formally accepted the withdrawal of application of Dr. Christa Adams, the top candidate for the institution's president.

It, however, deferred any action on what the board's next step would be.

Board chair Juan Lizama, during Friday's special meeting, also disclosed that the board's resolution pertaining to the hiring of president is still in effect until such time the board decides to terminate the resolution.

Dr. Adams is one of the three top picks for NMC president but withdrew her application last weekend due to personal reasons. Her withdrawal brought to only two the remaining contenders for the position: Dr. Jeff

Armstrong and Dr. Sharon Hart.

The board went into executive session twice Friday but failed to come up with a "clear option" to take. The members voted for a recess until Thursday this week.

"We're still operating under the resolution. And having said that, we still have the task of selecting the president [for NMC]," said Lizama during the board meeting Friday.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are some options that the board may consider and discuss among themselves. These include the possibility of offering the position to the next top candidate or may consider review of the remaining applicants from the Association of Community College Trustees. (Moneth G. Deposa)

Man on bail arrested again for domestic violence

A man previously released on bail was arrested again on Thursday for allegedly hitting his wife's face with his inner forearm outside their house in central Garapan.

Asfat Ali, 38, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and contempt.

The wife complained of pain and numbness on the left side of her face. Medics found after field examination she had no serious injuries.

During Friday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a \$2,250 cash bail on Ali.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 7, Thursday, at 9am.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that Koban police officers responded on Wednesday night to the victim's house after receiving a call about a disturbance incident.

Pangelinan said the officers learned met the victim, who

claimed that after Ali hit her on the face, she heard what she described as a "ringing" sound in the left ear.

The officers learned that earlier that night, Ali was at the Internet Café which is located close to their home. On her way to the store to purchase items for her daughter, the wife passed by the Internet Café and saw Ali there.

Ali got angry as the couple then walked together to their way home. Ali then allegedly struck the victim's face with his inner forearm. When the wife called the police, the suspect fled.

Police served the arrest warrant to Ali on Thursday night.

Detective Pangelinan said further investigation showed that on Jan. 3, 2011, Judge Govendo granted Ali's temporary release after he posted \$200 cash bail in a criminal case. Among the bail conditions is that Ali should stay away from his wife. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2011 Second General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Review and adoption of January 06, 2011 Minutes
- Reports
 - OVR Director
 - Chairman
 - CLI Director
- Old Business
 - Public Forum for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota
 - Needs Assessment
 - HB 17-43
 - By-Laws Amendment
 - Membership Status
- New Business
 - SILC Training/Webinar
 - Radio Talk Show
- Announcements
- Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Kite festival cancelled due to heavy rains

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The heavy downpour over the weekend resulted in the cancellation of the Marianas Winds Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair yesterday, but many community members still trooped to the American Memorial Park to fly kites.

Organized by Brilliant Star Montessori School and cosponsored by Marianas Visitors Authority, the Marianas Winds Kite Festival and Cultural Food fair is one of the school's biggest fundraisers, with this year's proceeds intended to strengthen the school's elementary class reading comprehension program.

Aside from the long-term development of the school, the event also aims to bring



Brilliant Star Montessori School principal Richard Sikkell assembles a kite with a dragon design for T.J. Cho while his brother Ernest looks on yesterday at the American Memorial Park.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

families together and attract local and tourists' participation.

School principal Richard Sikkell said in an interview that it was great to see a lot of people come down to the venue to participate in the festival.

Young children, along with their families, were at the ballfield to see their colorful kites in various designs take off in the sky.

"It would be nice to get these people out here again when we reschedule the festival," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kamweli Wilson, a teacher

at Brilliant Star, said the committee in charge of the food fair made its decision to cancel the event on Saturday due to the heavy rain shower.

"If we made the food and it rained today [Sunday], it's all going to go to waste. We had to make that decision," she disclosed.

According to Sikkell, their staff went to the ballfield without bringing the kites for sale and without expecting a crowd.

"But people came out and asked if they could buy kites. We had to go back and get our

stuff. There were quite a few kites that we've sold," he said.

Cookies, chips, iced tea, and water were also sold for \$1 at the field.

Since there are a number of activities happening this weekend, Sikkell said they are looking at rescheduling the kite festival about two weeks from now.

"Hopefully, this would give people the chance to put it in their calendars," he added.

For more information, contact Brilliant Star Montessori School at 323-7827 or 28.

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'Join Us Help Japan' event draws crowd

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Even with the overcast skies and heavy downpour, community members gathered together Saturday to support the biggest fundraising event to help relief efforts for the thousands of families affected by the earthquake and tsunami that struck and devastated northeastern Japan on March 11.

Government officials, members of the Japanese community, students, and volunteers showed up at the Garapan Fish-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Despite overcast skies, members and volunteers of the NMI Japan Disaster Relief wave to cars passing by Garapan Fishing Base along Beach Road while a local group performs during the "Join Us Help Japan" fundraising event on Saturday.

ing Base for the "Join Us Help Japan" fundraiser organized by the NMI Japan Disaster Relief.

NMI Japan Disaster Relief is a newly created nonprofit organization under the auspices of the Governor's Office and the Marianas Visitors Authority to pull together resources to help victims of the devastation. It is comprised mostly of members of the Japanese Society of Northern Marianas, Hotel Association of the NMI, and the Japan Travel Association.

Saturday's fundraising event featured a radio-thon drive that started as early as 6am amid an intense rain shower that poured nonstop in the afternoon. Radio station KKMP's Gary Sword was at the venue to broadcast the event live. KZMI 103.9 also transmitted the event's happenings on air.

A raffle drawing that gave away various prizes was also held during the event.

Fundraising committee mem-

bers braved the rainfall and damp streets as they stood along Beach Road waving placards and signs encouraging motorists and passersby to donate to the cause.

NMI Japan Disaster Relief's Yoichi Matsumura said that included in the event were various activities that also raised funds for the relief efforts, including the barbecue and jail house booths of the Legislative Branch and garage sale conducted by the Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and MVA managing director Perry Tenorio were among the prominent leaders who were put behind "bars" and were released after posting a bail of \$100 each which also went to the relief funds.

Matsumura said 11 different performing groups, composed mostly of young local student performers, provided entertainment during the event, with the Saipan Awaodori members'

performance serving as the finale act.

Different restaurants like Country House, Tony Roma's, Kinpachi, and Furusato also set up booths that offered food.

A walkathon attended by about 20 individuals, mostly members of the My WAVE Club of Garapan Elementary School, was also held during the event.

"Everybody came even though it was raining. Lots of people, including those who were passing by, gave their donations. We really appreciate the support given by the community, the local government, the private sector, students and volunteers who came to help us," Matsumura told *Saipan Tribune*.

Once the amount raised during the event is calculated, Matsumura said members of the NMI Japan Disaster Relief are scheduled to present it to the Japan Consular Office on April 7.

BOE approves 5-year strategic plan for CTE

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education has approved a five-year strategic plan for the Public School System's career and technical education program which aims to implement various career options from junior to high school students in the public schools.

According to PSS, the larger context of society is changing and challenges in technology and globalization continue to affect the work people do in the CNMI.

PSS said it is therefore vital for all stakeholders at all levels to work together to integrate core academics with career and technical education and to work with business and industry to drive change and meet the demands of the 21st century.

The following are the matrix of the five-year CTE strategic plan, which is for 2010 through 2015: program structure; personnel; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; partnerships, facilities, and administration.

Under the approved plan, PSS envisions that by 2015 the career pathways program will be fully implemented at all

public high schools and all CTE personnel will be highly qualified and certified and all students have access to a rigorous, relevant, integrated and content-focused on preparing students for college and careers.

It is also envisioned that after five years, all career pathways will have partners from post-secondary institutions and industry which will allow seamless transitions of students into college and the world of work. All CTE programs at the junior and high schools will also have facilities that are safe and conducive for learning and policies and procedures will be implemented to ensure that students have opportunities to receive credit from post-secondary and industry sectors.

Career pathways is a curriculum design that helps students achieve post secondary success through a connection between education and the world of work. The components of career pathways include agriculture, food, and natural resources; arts, technology and communication; business management and administration; education and training; finance; health science; hospitality and tourism;

and information technology.

Based on the approved plan, PSS needs a budget of \$11.9 million in order to fully implement the five-year strategic plan for all secondary schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Established in 1997, CTE was formerly known as vocational education. The name change occurred in order to revamp the image of vocational education and to combat the perception of vocational education being considered as second class. Today's CTE program incorporates more academic rigor with its courses.

Saipan Tribune learned that in the past, vocational education used to be for a few students and includes only six to seven program areas. CTE, meantime, is for all students and includes 16 career clusters and which all align and support the academics.

According to PSS, CTE learning community composed of school administrators, teachers, counselors and community partners formed the new strategic plan with the aim to prepare students for 2014 to meet the labor demands of the CNMI and offering credit-based transition programs.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 4, 2000

Gov't hikes budget for FY2001

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio handed in yesterday his budget proposal for FY 2001 amounting to \$220.6 million to run the government and deliver essential services to the community as he predicted the tourism industry to drive revenues up again for the first time in four years. The spending package for the next fiscal year represents a 6.7 percent increase in revenues over FY 2000, allowing the administration to augment the budget set aside for education, health and public safety. According to the chief executive, the upbeat overview on government income is a result of anticipated growth in tourist arrivals as well as in construction activities spurred by implementation of capital improvement projects.

CDA asks \$500K more from SBA

The Commonwealth Development Authority will seek additional funding from the Guam-based United States Small Business Administration to sustain the demand for small- and medium-scale business loans under its Microloan Program. Board Chairman John S. Tenorio said CDA would be asking SBA for at least \$500,000 in additional funds to meet the need for start-up and expansion capital by Northern Marianas entrepreneurs. Mr. Tenorio said at least 11 small-scale businessmen obtained fresh capital from the Microloan Program instituted by the development authority through a seed fund obtained from the Small Business Administration.

April 4, 2001

Disability groups tackle issues with Legislature

Questions on funding assistance flooded legislators yesterday as members of the CNMI Coalition of Disability Organizations held an awareness and information seminar at the Legislature. At least nine disability organizations presented various programs and persistent problems that need to be resolved to extend necessary assistance to individuals with disabilities. Present during the CNMI Legislature Awareness Workshop were Rep. Rosiky Camacho, Rep. Brigida Ichihara, Sen. Pete Reyes, Rep. Diego Benavente among others.

The seminar focused on disabilities-related awareness which touched on issues like the children's developmental assistance center, special education, Parent Association of Children with Autism, and other programs introduced by the Office of the Vocational Rehabilitation, CNMI Developmental Disabilities Council, State Independent Living Council, to name few.

AGO says and titles may be transferred to govt entities

Legal impediments in the operation of financing programs of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in the CNMI have all been cleared after the Attorney General said a transfer of title can occur between local and federal governmental agencies. The Attorney General's opinion is expected to ease doubts regarding whether NMHC can actually enter a Memorandum of Agreement with HUD in connection with its housing programs. Attorney General Herbert D. Soll clarified the issue of whether NMHC is considered a person of the Northern Marianas descent in connection with Article XII of the CNMI Constitution.

April 4, 2002

Lower budget divides Legislature

Senate Vice President David M. Cing's proposed bid to lower the Legislature's budget to \$4 million a year has provoked conflicting opinions among lawmakers, with some conceding the need to cut costs and others protesting that the present amount is just enough. Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano took the latter position, saying the present amount that the Legislature gets from the General Fund is just enough to cover the cost of running the legislative branch of government. "I think the amount that the Legislature gets is just right at the moment. If you take a look at the amount that is allocated for operations and personnel versus what we're doing presently, the money we get is just the right amount," he said.

CPA sets sight on better NMI ports

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will continue to implement aggressive programs to improve port facilities and deliver port services without straining local coffers amid the continued decline of the local economy. This was promised by CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas whose contract was renewed by the CPA Board after two consecutive 30-day extensions. In a memorandum released to all members of the CPA Board, Salas vowed to accept challenges posed by the economic hardships brought on by the September 11 tragedies in the United States and the Asian economic crunch.



LOVE CONQUERS ALL

They say love conquers all; seven children, five additional sons and daughters, 13 grandkids, and 41 years since you both first said "I do," they were right. Happy 41st wedding anniversary to Benedicto Reyes Lizama and Ana Quitugua Lizama. Mom and Dad, you have brought more into our lives than you will ever know. We love you both very much and we are standing strong because you two are standing strong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Joanie Paraiso who is celebrating her 10th birthday today, April 4. May you have more birthdays to come. We love you. From Tita Osang and Tito Onching.

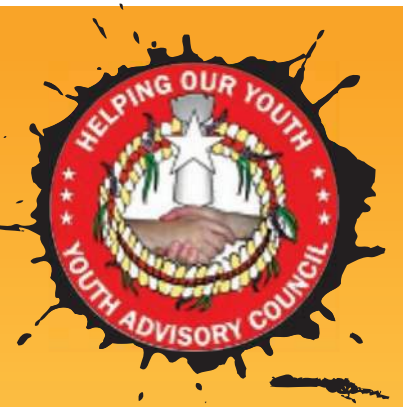


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Rex. We wish you good health, more blessings, and more birthdays to come. We love you. From your wife and children (Royce, Rane, and Roxy).



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI Youth Advisory Council
CNMI Juvenile Justice Task Force



APRIL 2011

ENFORCING UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS (EUDL) AWARENESS MONTH

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- MARCH 25, 2011** EUDL PROCLAMATION SIGNING, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
- APRIL 6, 2011** EUDL TOWNHALL MEETING, AQUA RESORT CLUB, 5:00PM - 7:00PM
- APRIL 13, 2011** EUDL TOWNHALL MEETING, PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB, 5:00PM - 7:00PM
- APRIL 16 - 17, 2011** EUDL YOUTH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT, CAPITOL HILL SOFTBALL FIELD
- APRIL 29, 2011**, EUDL YOUTH CONFERENCE, SAIPAN WORLD RESORT, 8:00AM - 4:00PM

The CNMI EUDL Enforcement Task Force will also be conducting Compliance Check Operations throughout the month of April.

THESE ARE ALCOHOL FREE EVENTS. NO ALCOHOL IS TO BE CONSUMED OR SERVED AT ANY OF THESE EVENTS. ANY VIOLATORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

For more information regarding the EUDL Youth Softball Tournament, please contact Mr. Isidoru Camacho at 670-285-0206 for any inquiries if you are interested in participating.

For more information about the EUDL Youth Conference and other activities in April, please contact the Criminal Justice Planning Agency at 670-664-4550.

THE CNMI JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE REMINDS EVERYONE TO PLEASE ENFORCE UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS.

HELP KEEP OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SAFE! DO NOT PROVIDE ALCOHOL TO MINORS UNDER THE AGE OF 21.



21! IT'S THE LAW!

A message from the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Task Force. Made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Obama's case for war

One of the main problems with the Obama administration's policy on Libya has been its confusing incoherence. Americans have been given contradictory signals about what is at stake and what President Barack Obama is prepared to do.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates warned of the challenges of a no-fly zone, only to see the president agree to impose one. Obama insisted that other countries take the lead—but the attack started with the United States in the chief role. He said Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi "has to go," even though that goal was absent from the U.N. resolution under which the operation took place.

Monday night, nine days after airstrikes began, the president finally tried to lay out to the American people the full case for war. He cleared up some of the confusion, but his presentation fell short in many ways.

Obama had shown considerable reluctance to intervene in the weeks after an anti-Gadhafi insurgency erupted. What obviously changed his mind was the tyrant's chilling threat to "cleanse Libya house by house." The chief administration goal was humanitarian: preventing what Obama called "a massacre that would have reverberated across the region and stained the conscience of the world."

In that, the attack succeeded. Stymied in their effort to crush the rebels, Gadhafi's forces were forced to fall back. The president was also able to make belated good on his vow to let others carry the load, as NATO took over command of the operation. So he has some basis to claim, as he did Monday, that we "have done what we said we would do."

The president suggests that from here, other countries will stand up as we stand down. If things go well, he is probably right. In recent days, the rebels advanced toward the government stronghold of Sirte. But their disorganization and lack of training raise serious doubts about their ability to topple the regime. A stalemate could ensue. Gadhafi's forces could regain the upper hand and smash the insurgents. Either scenario could create intense pressure for the U.S. to ramp up, in a big way.

That raises a couple of important questions: How does the president define success, and how much is he resolved to do to achieve it? He didn't address that issue—preferring to assume that the great bulk of the mission has already been accomplished and that our allies will do the rest.

Obama complicated matters by demanding Gadhafi's departure. That means the dictator will be in a position to declare victory if he merely survives. And since the president, thankfully, emphatically ruled out the use of ground forces in Libya, Gadhafi has a good chance of surviving.

Again, though, the president took refuge in what you might call the audacity of hope. "History is not on his side," Obama insisted. "With the time and space that we have provided for the Libyan people, they will be able to determine their own destiny, and that is how it should be." But Obama didn't say what will happen if he's wrong.

Another question: How and when will the United States be able to end its involvement in this war? Asked if the mission would conclude by year's end, Gates said, "I don't think anybody knows the answer to that." The longer it lasts, the higher the expense and the greater the chance the U.S. will be pulled in deeper.

The humanitarian mission, meanwhile, sets a precedent that will be used to demand American involvement in other places. After the Syrian government killed dozens of people in crush-

See OBAMA on Next Page

Judge @2011 KANSAS STAR / judge@kstar.com



THE U.S. ESTABLISHES A FOOTHOLD.

Everything happens because of 'I' in me

Good morning! Thank you for letting me share a few minutes with you this morning. Let's talk about the "I" that is in all of us. We use this word more often than any other word daily. "I" this, or "I" that. Think about how much you know about the "I" in us.

Socrates, the great Greek philosopher, said:
"The unexamined life is not worth living."

Let's see what he meant by that. Be honest with yourself as I pose several questions. They are your answers. You can keep them to yourself or share them with others. But see if you can improve on the answers.

Our "I" is the center of our personal universe. So let's examine this universe:

1. Do I ever examine where I am today and want to be tomorrow? Do I make frequent evaluations?
2. What am I doing to improve myself? Am I reading anything—books, magazines, newspapers?
3. Am I increasing my vocabulary? How many new vocabulary words have I added to my speech this past year??
4. Am I currently studying anything?
5. Do I have pride in myself? Do I have pride in my work? Am I passionate about it?
6. Am I curious about what is happening in my company or office? Do I ask questions?
7. Do I fully understand my company's organization and how my role fits in?
8. Am I trying to do better tomorrow what I do well today? Or am I repeating myself each year over and over again?
9. Have I learned how to learn?
10. Am I focused on my goals? Do I have goals? What are they?

These are only a few of the things I should be discussing with myself. If I don't know who I am how can I know others?

So why am I discussing this subject this morning? No, I am not trying to spoil your morning. But I am trying to get you to realize that if you wish to obtain a better job with better pay or improve our community, you have to examine the "I" and make self-improvements.

Let me repeat: All change starts with "I" who has a purpose and is seeking a desired result! What is my purpose and what results do I wish to achieve? Unless I know that, I will not grow in my job or profession.

The journey begins with "I." Stay with me as we probe deeper.

Do I like myself? If yes—why? If not—why not? What must I do to like myself? Do I know who I am? Do I need to be liked? Why

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



do I want to have friends and be likeable?

To what extent do I wish to be liked? Simply put—do I have a high esteem of myself or a low esteem of myself?

This morning how many decisions did I make since I awoke? I made many more than I realize. For example I decided what time to wake up. Then I decided how to prepare myself this morning. I decided to brush or not to brush my teeth and comb or not comb my hair. I decided to shave, if a man; I decided to put makeup on and how much and what type. I decided what to eat for breakfast and how much and what to drink—whether coffee, milk, tea, water, juice. I also decided what to wear this morning and how I will look. On an on I keep making decisions. They are both major and minor decisions, but they make up who I am.

This is who I am—a bundle of decisions constantly being made by me. Therefore how can I not want to know who the "I" is? I will finally realize that I control my universe.

All that we are discussing here today will require changes of ACTION on my part. The type of ACTIONS and the consistency of the ACTIONS will determine the results of the changes I wish to make.

Why aren't I making more money? Why don't I have a better job? Why wasn't I selected for the promotion? When was the last time "I" talked to me and questioned why I am not happy and improving in life?

Let me share some thoughts from one of the most influential books ever written on how to improve ourselves. Get a copy of Dale Carnegie's book: *How to Win Friends and Influence People* written in 1937, and still the number one best seller!

Here are three fundamental techniques in relating to people:

1. Don't criticize, condemn or complain. If I do, make sure it is to help and not to hurt.
2. Give honest and sincere appreciation. It is like sugar—the taste is sweet and lingers.
3. Arouse in the other person an eager want. This is the secret to real leadership.

Here are six ways to make people like me:

See EVERYTHING on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

‘Nu ren ban bian tian’

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



W e quoted “Women hold half of the sky” a year ago, too. Mao Zedong picked it up during his Red Book days, a challenge to the female comrades rather than as a statement of an accomplished reality. “Women can hold half of the sky,” was his particularly take, which puts the matter in the category of choice rather than the realm of a given fact. Since 1985 when the Middle Kingdom opened a commercial slit on the Great Wall, there has been a slow erosion in the gains of women in their rightful place within the population, and the patriarchal tradition of the Han has come back rather strong. Women seem relegated back to being window dressings either in the human resource division of a company or in the gracious front desks of costumer service. With my name, which is always confused with the female “Jamie,” it is not unusual to be mistaken for a girl. One of those occasions, I thought, was during the International Women’s Day this March when the staff at Shenyang Aerospace University handed me a bouquet of flowers and a box of L’Oreal shampoo and conditioner. I was grateful (I would have preferred a box of chocolate), and it turned out they offered the same gifts to the other males in the fac-

ulty as well. One of the stark features of the dorm next door to the Friendship Villa where most of the school foreign students and faculty members are housed, is the high number of statuesque ladies in their pumps and stiletto heels strutting out to the lanes of the campus walkways. I thought I was either getting more appreciative of feminine pulchritude in my old age, or the Chinese female population, with not a few assists from L’Oreal and company, is getting better at its cosmetic craft. The ladies walk together like a breed apart but not in measured military cadence; it looks more like a swift breeze down a fashion walk/runway in Paris or Milan. I remember sorority row at SMU in Dallas where daughters of southwest cowhands learned their graces for the manse after growing up with a pony in the ranch. These ladies at SAU are physically set aside by height and fashionable attire, and I suspected camaraderie among candidates for the Air Force officers’ corps until I saw one of the offerings in the English department was “cabin English.” They are students being trained to become airline stewards. I push the envelope further and ask my students studying logistics management, engine design, and human resource, “Why not be a pilot?” There is a height requirement. So far, the number of female commercial pilots can be counted by the fingers on one hand. I have yet to hear of female flyers in the air force (be happy to be corrected on this). My younger sister wanted to study medicine but she was encouraged to become a nurse. She did. I enjoyed the biological science classes with the pre-nursing students at my college but I was told “not to be sissy and be an MD.” I didn’t. Cost of medical education was prohibitive. I hung out with nurses, instead. So the stereotyping of gender roles in society is a part of one’s cultural upbringing with all the prejudices it entails. When a young man strays beyond the parameters of sexual behavior, we say, he

is sowing wild oats, and we dismiss it as a passing phase. When a young woman does the same, she is a slut and branded with scarlet letter the rest of her life. Most in my English class students, the males aim to be managers while the females are to be their assistants. The subservient role of the female to the male has cast a long shadow in the journey of humankind. Gender prejudice sticks to the bones for a long timeIt was only less than a 100 years ago when the United States conferred the right to vote to women, after centuries of condemning female assertiveness unless it was in the “service to the Lord,” in which case, one was canonized after martyrdom. It was only 6,000 ago that the human civilizing process got its start, on a planet that is 4.5 billion years old. We are just getting started. The current carnage in Cote d’Ivoire and the civil war in Libya, flash points like Pakistan and Afghanistan, however, reveal the distance we still have to go just to establish order and civility. Military might as the lynchpin for internal security and domestic tranquility is an illusion. Police may offer temporary restraint but it cannot hold stability on the lifelong journey.Economic justice empowers significant engagement from everyone. Would that a tiny island like Saipan, with its dynamically diverse population, learn that. Legal documents tend to get ahead of reality; it is perhaps time to revisit such documents as the UN declaration of human rights, get reacquainted with the fundamental rights that we have come to recognize to be inherent in being human. Mao had a point. We can choose. In the West, it has been a battle between the open society of coastal Athens, and the belligerent walls of inland Sparta. Maybe that is a false dichotomy. As an old Chinese sage once observed: “the inland waters eventually ends up in the open sea.” Time to embrace the yin-yang of both. We choose and our individual choices reverberate across a thousand destinies. Am holding my end of the sky. How is it in your sector?

‘Sueno,’ se˜nat tanu’

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



A ntes gi se˜nso˜ng iya Pagan, Alamagan yan Agrihan, guaha siempre un’ membron i komunida malag hulu’ gi hegso’ para u atan i puntan rubentasion yan oriyen i tanu. Yangin guaha batku gi puntan tasi, siempre umesalau “sueno”. Hana’ tutu˜ngu’ i tautau i se˜ngso˜ng na guaha batku para u halom. Ala kuenta este na palabra se˜nat para tod u na guaha mamamaila’ bisita ginen i chagu’. Maprepara siha i mangai sine’su’ ya matutuhon malofan kestap niha papa’ gi kanton tasi. Dispues ‘an mattu i batku, malofan halom gi dambulu antes de u fan ma˜nule’ fina kafe, asukat, pugas, lateria yan soblanten balin sine’su’ niha. I puntoghu pot sustansian i palabra kumu se˜nat pot hafa mamamaila’. Megai˜na besis ‘nai to choneg gi un’ banda. Mas este oppan gi halom man-ma’gasta ni bira birada man-tinetpe induktu ‘nos pot ginagu’. Lau mampos ma˜ngontentu ya mantai ansia tumatiye kumomple hafa inefresen niha pot para uma-adelanta haanen publiku. Tantu de ta letke i asuntu, estague’ pagu na ha palopu hit didog na chinatsaga. Mampos bula obligasion ge hafa humahalom gi kahan iya Marianas. Lau ni este kulan ti man-yine˜ngso˜ng i man-sabiu gi hegso i Deni. Dispues sige fina’ atburotu para umata’lon maina i inakonfotman i Covenant gi relasionta yan federat. I problema gaige solamismu gi entre hita, ahe’ ti kontra federat sa’ ha chogue obligasio˜na taimanu i mafitma na dokumentu. Mantinane’ hit man-lauya katan yan luchan, duru i barbecue yan picnic, ni unu lumie’ ‘nai kimason i atuf gima’ta. Ayu ‘nai man-arima hit ‘nai linachai nu i guafe enteru buttun guma’. Kulan mampos hit ma˜ngontentu ya taya’ animuta ma˜ngalamten prontu pot haanita. Esta pagu taya’ planu taimano para ta adelanta haanen tautauta siha. Mampos a’ ga˜ng i sunidon losus ginen i hegso i Deni. Kontodo mapagahes man-dinagau katkuet direksion. Afa˜nielos, megai ekun suenu gi aire, tanu yan i tasi. Esta fufuguyu’ ‘an hu hu˜ngog gi chagu pa˜ngpa˜ng se˜nat siha ni man-piligr u para i linahyan. Fan manmata ya in’ atan oriyen miyu antes de tafano˜ge todus ya u so˜gge hit i guafen butkan lau ta lilie’ ha’ na mamamaila. Tutuhon pagu fuma’ bisiu umeku˜ngog ekun “sueno.”

Gi silensiu˜n pue˜nge
Gi kada finagpo haane, hu renueba finaposhu gi fina’ silensiu na

patte gi hinasoghu. Dispues de man-nae’yu agradesimientu gi Saina pot felis haanihu, hu repasa tatte kau guaha huna’ pinite, isague ‘sino hu chanda lau ti presisu. Dispues umega’ ˜naihonyu man-nachaleg siha na programan television pot para bai’ na’ nahlala˜ng hinasoghu. I ma˜nge’ na pa˜ngpa˜ng uchan pumapa˜ngonyu gi ‘an pue˜nge ‘sino chatagmag. Megai˜na besis ‘nai mauleg deskansoghu. Hu huhu˜ngog ha’ burukan i se˜ngso˜ng deste i bus ni humahanau para i plasan batkon aire yan katen gayu gi chagu gi taftaf ogaan. Guaha na entre namagof yan triste ayu na katen gayu piot ‘an ta hasso pasuta siha gi hagas guma’. ‘An chatagmag antes de oran misan mona, sige ham pagu yan ma˜neluhu man-nalago amotsan ogaan. Dispues in’ tilus ham katan gi gima Yuus Bithen de Carmen para bai’n fan ma˜etbe kumu tanores. Dispues, duru luchan talu gi gima para preparasion amotsa yan eskuela.

Letters to the Editor

Autism awareness—a family view

The month of April has been declared as the CNMI’s Autism Awareness Month, which coincides with the World Autism Awareness Month as well. What is Autism? Autism refers to a complex neurological and developmental spectrum disorder that inhibits a person’s ability to communicate and develop social relationships. Autism prevalence rose 57 percent in the last five years according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) as of its 2006 report. One in every 91 American children is diagnosed with autism, as stated in the 2009 CDC report to the U.S. Congress. The incidence of autism is on the rise, not only in the CNMI, but around the world. Not only are the numbers increasing, but diagnosis is recognized more at an earlier age and in a milder form. The demands of living with a person with autism are great, and

Life is a gift

Every morning we wake up, we are given an opportunity to do good in this life. From opening the door for someone to lending a helping hand, every morning we wake up, we are given an opportunity to truly make a difference in our community and our world. Sometimes we get so caught up in our hectic lives that we forget to say important words, like “I love you” or “Let me help you” or “I love you.” Life is a gift. Remember to love like you’ve never loved before and love your neighbor. Your positive actions are the changing force we need in this world.

Ed Propst
Via email

‘An pue˜nge ‘nai propiu i ora para offisisun kasadules fanihi, manog hatsadu, binadu, pa˜nglau, ayuyu yan uma˜ng. Mauleg na tane’ sa’ probichosu para i familia. Taftaf gi egaan, mahuyo˜ng lokue’ i talayeru manman-yotte talaya. Guaha ‘nai marepite este antes de minachom atda u piot ‘nai ti sen guiya kineni’ ogaan. Lau ‘an pue˜nge ‘nai tasosoda’ ginefsagata gi oran deskansu. Hanae’ hit kampu para ta rinueba hit para i finatton sigiente dia yan tod u buruka˜na. Na fagpo ha’ animu gi ninaen agradesimientu gi Saina ya un’ inesgaihon gi hafa para un’ petsige gi sigiente ogaan. Chamu hinahala˜ng nu i problema siha. Patte este petmanente gi ha’anita. Bien felis yan Si Yuus Maase’!

■■■

Kabilosu i amigu˜hu Magoo. Hana’ ma-atkila tod u tro˜kun gulusina gi gualo˜na. Ileg˜na: “Iku, guaha fahan lateria (setbesa) diari u pagu”. Magahet na guaha ha’ seda’ yan suette!

families frequently experience high levels of stress. Recognizing and preparing for the challenges that are in store will make a tremendous difference to all family members involved, including parents, siblings, grandparents, extended families, and friends. The uniqueness of each individual with autism makes the experience of living with autism different for each family. But there are some consistent themes or issues that most families will want to be aware of to be able to provide the best support to the individual and to family members. As a parent and secondary consumer, I would like to share my family’s experience. My son, Nicholas, has been diagnosed with autism, pervasive developmental disorder. After Nicholas was diagnosed with autism, my wife, Vivian, and I have had to make tremendous changes in our everyday lives. The same thing was done with our daughter as well. We struggle each day; and it is more of a blessing instead of suffering.

OBAMA






From Page 10

ing protests, Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., suggested outside military intervention to protect civilians and remove dictator Bashar Assad. Do the president and his team have a coherent set of views that provide a principled basis for how to handle the next crisis, and the one after that? Or are they merely indulging gut impulses, without appreciating how their decisions will play out today and tomorrow? Big questions, not answered.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77

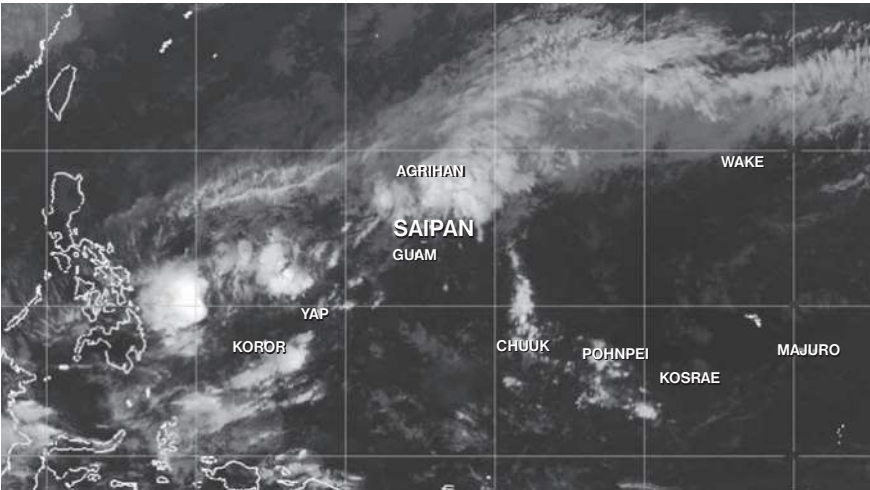
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 59
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 41
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 52
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 50
Miami	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 72
New York	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 43
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 40
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 43
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 46
Rome	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 51
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 49
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 38
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 42
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 57

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
7:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
2:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
8:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from south of Midway Island through 25N180 to west of Wake Island at 19N160E then continues as a shear line through Anatahan in the CNMI at 16N145E to beyond 130E at 13N. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line. A monsoon trough extends east-northeastward from a broad circulation centered northwest of Koror at 12N130E to end northeast of Saipan at 16N146E. Interaction between the shear line and monsoon system is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Koror and Yap but over the northern CNMI within 140 miles of a line from 11N130E to 16N140E to 17N149E. Converging southwest winds associated with the circulation are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from the equator to north of Koror within 100 miles of a line from 1N130E to 5N134E to 11N135E. Trade-wind convergence along the eastern half of a surface ridge is triggering scattered showers southwest of Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 1N146E to 8N150E. A surface trough runs northwestward from 1N157E to 9N153E. Scattered showers are present near the trough axis over Pohnpei coastal waters but south of Kosrae within 70 miles of a line from 9N154E to 1N165E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:11 AM	6:59 PM
Tuesday	6:49 AM	7:48 PM
Wednesday	7:30 AM	8:38 PM
Thursday	8:15 AM	9:30 PM
Friday	9:03 AM	10:23 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily				
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily				
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Jeon, Snodgrass receive national honors

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two local students from public high schools on island recently received national honors and were accepted to the National Society of High School Scholars, a national organization that recognizes students who have achieved academic excellence in their schools.

Su Jin Jeon, a senior at Saipan Southern High School, joined the elite club of scholars after society founder and chairman Claes Nobel informed her of her

selection.

Jeon is the oldest daughter of In Ho and Mi Yeon Jeon. Last year, she was the treasurer of SSHS' National Honor Society and a competitor of the "We the People" challenge.

She is now the treasurer of MY Wave Club and an active member of her school's nursing assistantship program and the youth advisory panel.

Jeon is not only active in her academics but is also a student athlete. This year she is proud to be a new inductee in the National Honor Society of High

School Scholars.

Local student **Kassandra April Snodgrass** was also selected for membership at the society of scholars. She is from Kagman High School and also demonstrated excellence in her studies.

Snodgrass is the daughter of Calvin Kenneth and Maria Ari-



Jeon

adne Snodgrass.

As a high school junior student, she is also currently attending the early admission program at the Northern Marianas College in a part-time basis. At NMC, she was able to maintain a high grade and have been on the dean's list for the Fall semester 2010.



Snodgrass

"I am honored to be part of such a prestigious society. I hope to continue to get good grades in all my studies and become a teacher to help educate future generations," she said yesterday.

Formed in 2002, the NSHS recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and encourages members of the organization to apply their unique talents, vision, and potential for

the betterment of themselves and the world. Currently, there are more than 530,000 society members in over 160 countries.

According to Nobel it is the society's vision to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities.

"We aim to help students like Kassandra and Su Jin build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community," added Nobel.

ICE, CBP adopt Beach, Mt. Tapochao

Staffers of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and of the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have joined the island campaign against trash with two beach clean-ups this month and plans to adopt one of Saipan's major tourism sites.

On March 20, 2011, members of ICE and CBP, along with their families, collected twelve bags of trash along the beach in Oleai. Last Saturday (March 26) they also performed a clean up in the Makaka Beach area, which they have adopted. ICE started their southern sweep at the Fiesta Resort & Spa while CBP began at the Hafadai Beach Hotel and

headed north. Between the two agencies, over 22 bags of garbage were collected.

"Adopting the beach is a great way to give back and a great way to participate in the community," said Port Director John D. Sullivan. "But, the best lessons are those learned by the children who helped with the clean up."

Sullivan noted the new endeavor will most likely become a biweekly event. He added that after this year's Easter celebration on Mt. Tapachao, CBP and ICE plan to begin maintaining trash control and conducting light grounds keeping at that location, as well. (MVA)

Toothworks and Open Choice Dental Plan donate to NMC Foundation

In support of higher education in the CNMI, Toothworks and Open Choice Dental Plan recently donated to the Northern Marianas College Foundation. Toothworks donated \$5,000 and Open Choice donated \$2,000. The donations were made in support of the upcoming 9th Annual Foundation Open, which will be held on Saturday April 30, 2011 at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"We are happy to assist the NMC Foundation in its ef-

forts to raise funds for NMC's educational programs," said Toothworks and Open Choice Dental Plan owner and manager Dr. Alan Markoff. "The staff and management are proud to be behind this worthy cause."

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds for the Northern Marianas College's academic programs and services to ensure that students continue to receive quality

support in pursuing their educational goals.

"The NMC Foundation is thankful for the donations Toothworks and Open Choice Dental Plan have made in support of our efforts to raise much needed funds for the College," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation.

The tournament will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at the Laolao Bay Golf course with a show time of 6am and a shotgun start at 7am. The tour-

namment will follow a medal play format with six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, seniors, and ladies. The entrance fee is \$95 per player.

For more information on becoming a sponsor or registering to play, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 at extension 1050. Registration forms are available online or by visiting the NMC Cashier's Office, Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, or Triple J Motors. (NMC)

EVERYTHING

From Page 10

1. Become genuinely interested in other people. They have fascinating stories and personalities.

2. Smile! Smile! SMILE! It won't cost me a cent but it will buy me good feelings.

3. Remember that a person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in

any language.

4. Be a good listener. Encourage others to talk about themselves.

5. Talk in terms of the other person's interests. It will create a bridge between me and the other person.

6. Make the other person feel important—and do it sincerely. We all need that feeling.

These are only a sample of the wisdom that we will find

in Dale Carnegie's book *How To Win Friends and Influence People*. As we master them, we will truly become a successful human being and an outstanding leader. By reading this book, we will discover new wealth in ourselves.

When I ask people: "When was the last time you hugged yourself?" They laugh and think I am crazy. But think about it. We hug our wives, husbands, children, relatives, pets, friends

everyday. Why? To show that we love them.

When was the last time you hugged yourself and told yourself that you love yourself? How can you love others if you don't love yourself? Love emanates from "I" than to others. Think about it.

Do this now! Put your arms around yourself in an embrace and repeat loudly three times: "I like me!" Go ahead do it. You will feel great. This does not

mean I have a swollen head of myself, but a genuine love for myself which I want to share with others.

Today I am trying to remind us of what we have to do to gain advancement in our lives. The path to greater achievement lies within us. Our attitude is the key. If we use the key of proper attitude, it will open many new and exciting doors.

In closing, remember that my bad decisions are responsible

for 95 percent of all my failures. Check out the "I" in us and make adjustments.

Love what I do and do what I love. This is the only true path to happiness. My motto must be:

"I will do better tomorrow what I do well today!"

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you this morning. May God bless and keep you safe, healthy and happy.

AUTISM

From Page 11

Throughout the years we have educated ourselves through massive readings, on-line research, attend trainings and conferences, and listen to outside perspectives from parents on-island and abroad.

Nicholas continues to progress through his special education program at PSS, as listed in his individual education plan (IEP). Adjustments were made for his accommodations, which includes his inclusive program. He has gone through tremendous trials and errors, even to this day in high school. Least to say, he is blessed to have such a wonderful and hardworking team of teachers, school administration, and most especially his teacher aide.

My wife's daily drop-off to school and pick-up after school (including his lunch prepared at home) are always prompt.

Nicholas thinks with pictures in his head and echolalia to verbal and commands either at home or at school. He will talk to us only when he wants or to do something or help

needed. Although with his autistic condition his comprehension is good.

He is meticulously neat and everything has to be in order. In fact, nothing pleases him more than taking his toys (cars, trains, and airplanes) and lining them up in a straight row that would even make a drill sergeant proud. When I would move a toy in the middle of the lineup just a quarter inch off, he would zoom in on it and immediately put it back in its proper place.

He is also very routine-oriented. For example, when we handed him a cookie or chip for a snack, he would first put it on the table and then pick it up and only then would he eat it.

Also, if we went to visit friends or family members, we always had to take the same familiar route. If there was traffic and we had to turn down a different routine he would throw a tantrum (irritated). Now we were able to convince him that taking a different route give him the opportunity to see something new and different.

My wife is very understanding and tolerant, since I am the breadwinner for my family. In our home, we have what we

call "shift changes." Each day after work is my time to work with Nicholas. My wife then takes a time-out or what we call in-house respite-care. I am his "buddy" at home. We have a routine check around the yard for clean up, followed with our usual two-mile walk around the village three times a week. Nicholas' expectation or reward is the usual stopover at the Ming Yang store for a cold soda and chips.

Every Saturday is our routine schedule at Joeten-Kiyu library for about an hour or two. This is followed by a drive to the Post Office to independently check the mailbox. Then off to Koblerville Shell Service Station for ice cream. We're teaching Nicholas the independence of purchasing and value of money. The service station staff know Nicholas well and treat him with respect. It's the same situation when we visit Ace Hardware, Joeten Shopping Center, or at times when we're having meals at McDonald's. At times when we're at a public place and we bump into some students from Saipan Southern High School they will greet

him and give each other high-fives or fist pumps.

On every other weekend for his enjoyment and relaxation we include a joyride around the airport vicinity watching with excitement airplane approaches, landing, and take-off, and sight-seeing at Marpi area. We also walk through its pathway.

Children with autism such as Nicholas have difficulties with social interaction, communication, and activities, and interests. Individual with autism will not necessarily have all of the signs and symptoms associated with the disorder. Although they may exhibit similar symptoms, no two children with autism are alike. An autistic child can lead a near-normal life. Their cognition is deep but they cannot express their feelings.

We preach daily to our daughter Nakita, Nicholas' older sister, the importance of establishing a positive sibling relationships among children not only to make day-to-day living within a family more pleasant, but also to create a life-long support system for the siblings involved. A relationship of love and support can be more difficult to establish and more cru-

cial in a family where one of the sibling copes daily with a developmental disorder.

Siblings of children with autism face challenges. It may be difficult to understand the nature why her brother exhibits certain behaviors, such as aggression and self-stimulation and it may be scarier when observed at eye-level. Often our daughter falls into a role of support for her mother and experiences her grief.

It is difficult for any parent to find the fine line between helping their child in an immediate situation, and allowing the child to learn independence by struggling with a daily life skill.

Children with autism who are allowed to work independently rather than taught to rely on parental assistance are better able to function in the home and in other community settings. The earlier independence is demanded for a child, the easier it will be for him/her to learn the necessary skills for daily self-care and management.

Autistic children need to be given the opportunity to struggle with tasks such as self-dressing, hand-washing, routine cleaning, self-feeding, and even having to

stay alone at bedtime and falling asleep. This does not mean that parents are precluded from caring and from helping their children to learn to adjust to independence and to correctly perform these tasks.

Parents of children with autism and/or other developmental disabilities are in the habit of taking extra care of their children. It is important to remember that all children, including those with autism, can benefit from guided trial and error. Make time for your child to learn to dress himself before leaving the house. Allow for mess at the kitchen when the child learns to eat with a spoon and fork. Be prepared for falls and scraped knees when he is running or struggles trying to climb stairs. Also, keep certain guidelines in mind when trying to lead your child toward independent living and independent accomplishments in the home.

Without the patience, my wife's enormous understanding, and my daughter's sixth sense ability, I don't know how we could overcome our battles.

Francisco D. Cabrera
Tuturam Drive, San Vicente

Business

Grounding planes likely cost Southwest millions

DALLAS (AP)—Southwest Airlines Co.'s decision to cancel about 300 flights Saturday inconvenienced thousands of passengers and may have cost the airline several million dollars in lost revenue.

The damage to Southwest's earnings would be reduced, however, if stranded passengers rebook on other Southwest flights rather than canceling their planned trip.

The airline canceled the flights—more than 10 percent of its Saturday schedule—when it grounded nearly 80 planes of the same type that had a rupture in its fuselage after takeoff from Phoenix on Friday. The planes will undergo inspections of their aluminum skin.

Southwest spokeswoman Linda Rutherford said it was too soon for the company to estimate the cost of grounding one-seventh of its fleet. She said Southwest might provide numbers later this month, when it releases its first-quarter earnings report.

The grounded planes are 137-seat Boeing 737-300s. Using the airline's most recent available figures for average occupancy, it's possible to estimate that more than 31,000 paying passengers were stranded Saturday. Southwest says on its website, updated this week,



In this photo provided by passenger Christine Ziegler, unidentified passengers take photos with cell phones of an apparent hole in the cabin on a Southwest Airlines aircraft Friday, April 1, 2011 in Yuma, Ariz.

that its average one-way fare is \$130.27, which would produce a \$4.1 million loss in revenue.

However, such an estimate could be conservative because planes are more full in April than February, the last month for which Southwest occupancy numbers are available. Also, some of the canceled flights were to use slightly bigger ver-

sions of the 737.

The estimate could also be too high for several reasons. Rutherford said Southwest tried to cancel flights with the fewest passengers—a standard practice when airlines must scrub flights. Also, Saturday flights may have fewer high-fare business travelers.

Southwest had 2010 revenue of \$12.1 billion.

Whatever the cost of Saturday's cancellations, Southwest faces a bigger problem if a large number of those grounded planes remain out of service into the work week.

Recently, JetBlue Airways said it lost \$30 million in revenue due to late-December storms that caused it to cancel 1,400 flights.

Obama: Shift from imported oil, new jobs will come

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says shifting the U.S. away from imported oil and toward cleaner forms of energy will add momentum to a trend that has led to 1.8 million new jobs in the past 13 months.

Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday to promote his ideas for bringing down gasoline prices by decreasing U.S. dependence on foreign oil. A blueprint he outlined in a recent speech calls for increasing domestic oil exploration and production, making cars and trucks more energy efficient and building vehicles that run on alternative fuels or electricity.

Noting that the U.S. doesn't have enough oil reserves to meet its needs, he set a goal of reducing imports by one-third by 2025.

"By doing so, we're going to make our economy less vulnerable to wild swings in oil prices," Obama said. "We're going to use cleaner sources of energy that don't imperil our climate. And we're going to spark new products and businesses all over the country by tapping America's greatest renewable resource: our ingenuity."

The address was Obama's third in recent days on the issue. On Wednesday, he travels to

Philadelphia area to visit an arm of the Spanish company Gamesa, maker of giant turbines that generate electricity from wind.

Oil prices have climbed because of increasing demand in China and instability in some oil-producing countries in the Middle East. That, in turn, has pushed U.S. gasoline prices to new highs. The national average for a gallon of gas hit \$3.619 on Friday, the highest price ever for this time of year, according to AAA and other sources. Prices have climbed 23.2 cents in the past month and more than 81 cents in the past year.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell agreed with Obama on encouraging more domestic energy production. But he accused the administration of stifling that industry's growth by cancelling drilling leases, halting drilling off the Gulf Coast after last summer's oil spill and increasing permit fees.

"As a result, thousands of U.S. workers have lost their jobs, as companies have been forced to move their operations overseas. That must end," the Kentucky Republican said. "We must do more to find energy here at home, and the jobs that go with it." Obama said that sparking new products and businesses during a transition away

from imported oil will help create jobs. The government reported Friday that 230,000 private sector jobs were created in March, bringing the total number created in the past 13 months to 1.8 million. The national unemployment rate also dipped to a two-year low of 8.8 percent last month.

"That's a good sign," Obama said. He recorded the address at a UPS shipping facility in suburban Maryland, where he examined all-electric and hybrid vehicles used by AT&T, Verizon, PepsiCo and other companies.

"But we have to keep up the momentum, and transitioning to a clean energy economy will

help us do that," Obama said.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, focused his party's weekly message on steps he said the government must take to encourage small businesses to create jobs. Among those steps are continuing to cut spending, blocking tax increases, reducing the bureaucracy and eliminating regulations. Boehner once owned a small plastics and packaging business in Ohio.

Boehner said Congress also needs to pass a bill funding the government through Sept. 30, when the budget year ends, and avoid a shutdown. The government's authority to spend money expires next Friday.



President Barack Obama pauses while speaking during his visit to a UPS shipping facility in Landover, Md., Friday, April 1, 2011.

High-end medical option prompts Medicare worries

WASHINGTON (AP)—Every year, thousands of people make a deal with their doctor: I'll pay you a fixed annual fee, whether or not I need your services, and in return you'll see me the day I call, remember who I am and what ails me, and give me your undivided attention.

But this arrangement potentially poses a big threat to Medicare and to the new world of medical care envisioned under President Barack Obama's health overhaul.

The spread of "concierge medicine," where doctors limit their practice to patients who pay a fee of about \$1,500 a year, could drive a wedge among the insured. Eventually, people unable to afford the retainer might find themselves stuck on a lower tier, facing less time with doctors and longer waits.

Medicare recipients, who account for a big share of patients in doctors' offices, are the most vulnerable. The program's financial troubles are causing doctors to reassess their participation. But the impact could be broader because primary care doctors are in short supply and the health law will bring in more than 30 million newly insured patients.

If concierge medicine goes

beyond just a thriving niche, it could lead to a kind of insurance caste system.

"What we are looking at is the prospect of a more explicitly tiered system where people with money have a different kind of insurance relationship than most of the middle class, and where Medicare is no longer as universal as we would like it to be," said John Rother, policy director for AARP.

Concierge doctors say they're not out to exclude anyone, but are trying to recapture the personal connection shredded by modern medicine. Instead of juggling 2,000 or more patients, they can concentrate on a few hundred, stressing prevention and acting as advocates with specialists and hospitals.

"I don't have to be looking at patient mix and how many are booked per hour," said Dr. Lewis Weiner, a primary care physician in Providence, R.I., who's been in a concierge practice since 2005.

"I get to know the individual," Weiner said. "I see their color. I see their moods. I pick up changes in their lives, new stressors that I would not have found as easily before. It's been a very positive shift."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Transocean gives safety bonuses despite deaths

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Transocean Ltd. gave its top executives bonuses for achieving the "best year in safety performance in our company's history"—despite the explosion of its oil rig that killed 11 people and spilled 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The company said in a regulatory filing that its most senior managers were given two thirds of their total possible safety bonus. Transocean noted "the tragic loss of life" in the Gulf when the rig operated by BP PLC exploded last April. But it said the company still had an "exemplary" safety record because it met or exceeded certain internal safety targets concerning the frequency and severity of its accidents, according to the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday.

Sweden's Ericsson suing Chinese rival ZTE

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Swedish wireless equipment maker LM Ericsson on Saturday said it is suing Chinese rival ZTE Corp. for alleged infringement of several of its patents in handset and network technology. Fredrik Hallstan, a spokesman for the Stockholm-based group, said lawsuits were filed in Britain, Germany and Italy on Friday, after several attempts to get the Chinese telecom equipment maker to sign a patent licensing agreement had failed. "This has been going on for many years," Hallstan said, declining to give any details on the total sum demanded in the lawsuits or exactly how many patents are concerned. "This is a last resort."

Goldman CEO 2010 pay package rises to \$14.1M

NEW YORK (AP)—Lloyd Blankfein, the CEO of Goldman Sachs Group Inc., saw his 2010 compensation rise to \$14.1 million from just over \$1 million in 2009, according to an Associated Press analysis of data filed with regulators on Friday. Blankfein received a salary of \$600,000, a cash bonus of \$5.4 million and stock awards of \$7.65 million for the year. He also received perks worth \$464,067, including \$185,110 for the use of a car, \$62,020 for medical and dental coverage and the rest for life insurance, tax planning and retirement contributions. In addition, he was granted restricted stock valued at \$12.6 million, up from \$9 million in 2009, which is not counted in the total annual package because the grants are paid out over a period of three years.

Nation

State budget crises push sentencing reforms

ATLANTA (AP)—As costs to house state inmates have soared in recent years, many conservatives are reconsidering a tough-on-crime era that has led to stiffer sentences, overcrowded prisons and bloated corrections budgets.

Ongoing budget deficits and steep drops in tax revenue in most states are forcing the issue, with law-and-order Republican governors and state legislators beginning to overhaul years of policies that were designed to lock up more criminals and put them away for longer periods of time.

"There has been a dramatic shift in the political landscape on this issue in the last few years," said Adam Gelb, director of the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Center on the States. "Conservatives have led the charge for more prisons and tougher sentencing, but now they realize they need to be just as tough



A prisoner carries a mattress as he moves through the state prison Thursday, March 3, 2011 in Jackson, Ga. AP

on criminal justice spending."

Most of the proposals circulating in at least 22 state

Capitols would not affect current state prisoners, but only future offenders.

Republican governors and lawmakers pushed for many of the policies that put low-

level drug offenders and non-violent felons behind bars and extended sentences for many convicted criminals. But with the GOP in control of more financially strapped state governments, a growing number of Republican elected officials favor a review of the sentencing laws that contributed to a fourfold increase in prison costs over two decades.

The total cost of incarcerating state inmates swelled from \$12 billion in 1988 to more than \$50 billion by 2008.

Newly elected Republican governors in Florida and Georgia are among those pushing sentencing reforms. Brent Steele, a Republican state senator in Indiana, concedes that lawmakers share the blame for driving up state prison costs in recent years. High-profile crimes prompt lawmakers and governors to adopt ever-tougher criminal

sentencing, such as three-strikes laws that impose minimum mandatory sentences for those convicted of a third felony, no matter the offense.

"But with that eventually comes the time when we run out of prison space," said Steele, who is sponsoring a criminal justice overhaul in his state, prompted by budget concerns. "So what do you do? You concentrate on incarcerating those we're afraid of and not those we're just mad at."

Fall election gains put Republicans in control of 25 state legislatures and 29 governor's offices, and many have pledged not to raise taxes even as they face budget shortfalls. Reforming laws to send fewer low-level offenders to state prison or reduce their sentences is a more politically palatable way to save money than cutting spending for schools or health care programs.

White House says Obama talks budget with lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama pressed the House and Senate leaders Saturday to agree to a budget in time to avert what he says would be an economically harmful government shut-down, but restated his opposition to certain spending cuts and other provisions insisted upon by Republicans.

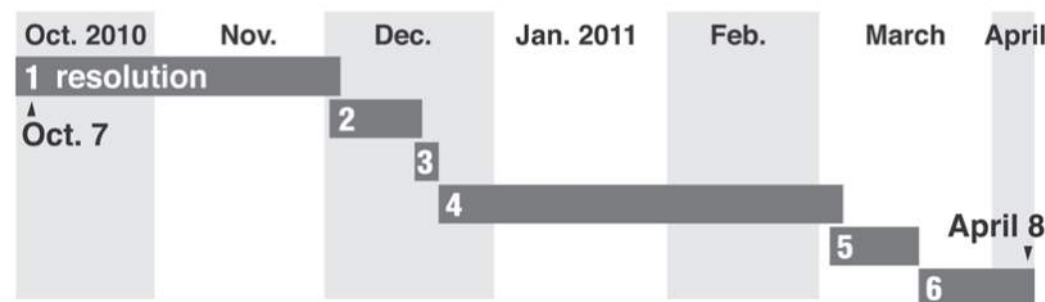
Obama delivered the message in separate telephone conversations with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., the White House said.

Negotiations continued Saturday on a bill to fund government operations through Sept. 30, the end of the budget year. They have zeroed in on cuts in the \$33 billion range, but haven't agreed on where to make them.

Government funding expires at midnight Friday.

Keeping government running

Since Oct. 1, the beginning of the current fiscal year, the U.S. Congress has passed six continuing resolutions, or stopgap measures to keep the government funded in the absence of an official budget.



Source: USGS Office of Budget, Planning and Integration
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Much of the government would shut down without a new budget in place.

Complicating matters from the White House view are non-spending provisions that Republicans want to put in the budget to block the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency from implementing regulations on various industries and ban funding for Planned Parenthood.

Obama told the leaders that he opposes using the budget process to "further an ideo-

logical agenda" by pursuing issues that aren't related to reducing spending or the deficit, the White House said. Obama also said he objects to cuts that would undermine economic growth and job creation.

He said shutting the gov-

ernment would hurt the economy just as it's beginning to create jobs. On Friday, the government reported that the unemployment rate had fallen to a two-year low of 8.8 percent in March and that the economy added 216,000 jobs last month.

After keeping a low pro-

file and delegating the negotiating to Vice President Joe Biden, his budget director and other White House aides, Obama has begun to press publicly for a deal as this latest deadline nears. He has signed several short-term spending bills to keep the government in business.

He said Friday that compromise was within reach.

ACROSS THE NATION

4 dead in crash of small plane at NM airport

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP)—Four Gulfstream employees were killed Saturday in a fiery crash of a test twin-engine luxury business aircraft at an airport, authorities said. Officials with Savannah-Ga.-based plane company confirmed that two Gulfstream pilots and two flight-test engineers died in the crash. Their names and other background information weren't immediately released. The company said in a statement that the Gulfstream G650 was doing takeoff-performance tests at Roswell International Air Center at the time of the crash.

Man: Autistic son died after waking family to fire

BISBEE, Ariz. (AP)—The father of a 12-year-old autistic boy says his son died in a fire at the family's mobile home in southern Arizona after the child appeared confused and ran back into the house. The man, who has not been identified, says the boy woke him early Saturday to say there was smoke in the home in Bisbee, near the U.S. southern border. The man says his family got out of the home but that

the boy ran back inside. Cochise County authorities say the boy's body was found in his bedroom, partially under the bed.

Sheriff's officials say the home was fully engulfed by the time crews arrived. They say a man and a woman were outside at the time and told firefighters the boy was still inside.

Opponents start push to repeal Ohio union law

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Opponents of an Ohio law to limit public workers' collective bargaining rights have started gathering signatures to get a referendum on the measure. Gov. John Kasich (KAY'-sik) signed the measure Thursday. It bans public worker strikes, eliminates binding arbitration, and restricts bargaining for 350,000 public workers. The bill was supported by the Republican majority in the Legislature and by business groups and tea party activists, who say it's needed to help Ohio economically. Unions and Democrats opposed it. Columbus resident Mike Patrick said he was first to sign the petition Saturday. The 45-year-old small-business owner said some provisions will hurt public services and the business environment.

Rand Paul visits Iowa, urges GOP not to compromise

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—U.S. Sen. Rand Paul was hailed in Iowa Saturday as an emerging party player for his government-shrinking, deficit-cutting message—nearly four years after his father championed similar themes but was excluded from a Republican presidential forum because of his poor showing in the polls.

The Kentucky senator's message sounded much like the one delivered by his father, U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, whose low-budget presidential campaign ended with a fifth place showing in the 2008 caucuses. On Saturday, the younger Paul delivered the keynote speech at an Iowa

Republican Party event dubbed "Night of the Rising Stars."

The change speaks volumes about the respect now given to the Pauls and the Republican Party's acceptance of much of the father and son's message.

"It is a message that the father started out with some years ago and I think it is resonating more today than it did four years ago," said former Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Stewart Iversen. "People are understanding the spending side of it better than they did four years ago."

Rand Paul, a leader of the national Tea Party movement, was elected to the Senate in November.

In a speech to Iowa party activists and office holders, Rand Paul said Republicans should never compromise on their core beliefs. He likened such deal-making to the complicity that allowed slavery

to exist. Rand Paul said the nation faces a "day of fiscal reckoning" with its deficit, the prospect of inflation and more than \$1 trillion in U.S. debt owned by Chi-

na and Japan.

"It's not enough just to be a Republican," Paul told the crowd. "It's not enough just for the Republican parties to exist. Political parties are empty vessels unless we imbue them with values. We have to stand for something, and we have to mean it."

Earlier in the day, Paul lashed out at President Barack Obama by accusing him of overseeing "the most anti-business administration we've ever had," and he warned that government-sponsored clean energy programs would only ship jobs to China, which manufactures parts for many of the of the industry's wind turbines.



Paul

Asia

Engineers fail to seal leak at Japan nuke plant

TOKYO (AP)—Engineers failed to seal a crack where highly radioactive water was spilling into the Pacific from a Japanese nuclear power plant incapacitated by last month's earthquake-spawned tsunami but said a search of the site found no other leaks Sunday.

The wave has carved a path of destruction up and down the coast and is believed to have killed 25,000 people. The first deaths at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant itself, though, were confirmed Sunday by the operator. A 21-year-old and a 24-year-old were believed to be conducting regular checks at the complex when the 9.0-magnitude earthquake hit March 11.

"It pains me that these two young workers were trying to protect the power plant while being hit by the earthquake and tsunami," Tokyo Electric Power Co. Chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata said in a statement.

It was unclear why the men did not evacuate when the quake hit.

The bodies were not discovered until Wednesday and had to be decontaminated. The announcement was delayed out of respect for the victims' families, TEPCO spokesman Naoki Tsunoda said.

Radiation has been spewing

from the plant, leaking into the air, ground and sea. On Saturday, authorities discovered a crack from which radioactive water was spilling into the Pacific—the first time they identified a direct source of sea contamination.

A picture released by TEPCO

shows water shooting some distance away from a wall and splashing into the sea, though the amount of water was not clear. The contaminated water will quickly dissipate in the ocean but could pose a danger to workers at the plant.

Pooling water at the nuclear

complex—which is believed to ultimately come from the reactor cores—has repeatedly forced technicians to pull back and suspend their work.

After the massive tsunami knocked out power to the plant three weeks ago, cooling systems failed, and the reactors

have been dangerously overheating since. A series of almost daily problems has led to substantial amounts of radiation leaking into the atmosphere, ground and sea in the world's worst nuclear crisis since the 1986 meltdown at Chernobyl in the former Soviet Union.

The 8-inch- (20-centimeter-) long crack in a maintenance pit at the Fukushima plant is be-

lieved to have been caused by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that generated the wave. Water containing levels of radioactive iodine far above the legal limit spilled from it into the Pacific, said Hidehiko Nishiyama of Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency. Workers flooded the pit with concrete in an effort to seal the crack but couldn't get it to dry.



In this Saturday, April 2, 2011 photo released by Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), leaking radioactive contaminated water drain through crack of a maintenance pit, right, into the sea, near the Unit 2 reactor of Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okumamachi, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.

Prisoner released to help free Filipino hostages

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—

A jailed tribal leader has been temporarily freed to help urge gunmen, including his relatives, to safely release 16 mostly grade school teachers in the latest high-profile hostage crisis to hit the Philippines in recent months, officials said Sunday.

On Friday, at least five Manobo tribesmen snatched the 16 people, who were walking along a main road from graduation ceremonies at three schools, and took them at gunpoint aboard two motorcycle taxis to a hilly hinterland in remote Prosperidad town in southeastern Agusan del Sur province, officials said.

A government negotiator resumed talks Sunday with the hostage-takers, who have demanded the freedom of tribal leader Jobert Perez, who was jailed for taking 79 people hostage in 2009 over a long-running clan feud in Agusan. A local court has temporarily freed Perez, who was allowed by police to urge the gunmen over the phone to peacefully end the hostage-taking, regional police chief Reynaldo Rafal said.

"This is tragic because these are lowly paid teachers who are being held," Prosperidad Mayor

Alvin Magdamet told The Associated Press by telephone. "They worked hard to prepare for the graduation ceremonies and ended being hostages."

Aside from the teachers, the other hostages who traveled from remote villages to attend the school ceremonies were students, relatives and two men who drove the motorcycle taxis that the gunmen commandeered, Rafal said.

Food and water were delivered Saturday to the hostage-takers, who apparently took their hostages to abandoned huts in a forested area about two miles (three kilometers) from where they were kidnapped. Police sharpshooters and army troops have been deployed to unspecified areas near the hostage scene, Rafal said.

The latest hostage-taking erupted seven months after a kidnapping crisis in Manila ended in bloodshed when a dismissed policeman took captive a busload of Hong Kong tourists to demand his job back. The Aug. 23 ordeal ended with police and the gunman opening fire, leaving eight hostages and the assailant dead and drawing international criticism for the bungled police rescue.

UN envoy: UN workers killed running from bunker

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Fearing for their lives, the U.N. workers dashed into a dark bunker hoping to escape the mob of Afghan protesters angry over the burning of a Quran by a Florida church.

Hope wasn't enough for three of them. They were hunted down and brutally slain—their bodies found later in three different parts of the compound in northern Afghanistan.

"They were killed when they were running out of the bunker," said Staffan de Mistura, the top U.N. envoy in Afghanistan, who recounted their harrowing deaths to reporters on Saturday evening. "One was pulled out alive because he pretended to be a Muslim."

De Mistura spoke in a somber tone as he described how three U.N. staff members and four Nepalese guards were killed Friday when the protesters stormed their compound in the normally peaceful city of Mazar-i-Sharif. He placed direct blame on those who burned a copy of the Muslim holy book in Gainesville, Florida, last month, stoking anti-foreign sentiment that already was on the rise after nearly a decade of war in Afghanistan.

"The demonstration was meant to protest against the insane and totally despicable gesture by one person who burned

the holy Quran," he said.

He also said the U.N. building would not have been attacked if there had been an adequate cordon of Afghan police separating the demonstrators and the compound.

A formal inquiry is under way, but de Mistura said initial reports indicate that seven to 15 insurgents infiltrated a group of as many as 3,000 demonstrators who overran the U.N. compound, which was protected by Afghan policemen and six U.N.-hired Nepalese guards. The crowd overpowered the guards—who are instructed not to shoot into crowds of civilians, even if they are threatening—and the police were not able to stop them, he said.

Four of the Nepalese guards were killed; some were shot in the yard of the compound. Three Afghan U.N. workers survived by melding into the surging crowd, he said. Four Afghan protesters also were killed in the riot.

Protesters had set fire to cars and an electric generator in the U.N. compound so the bunker was dark. It was the only safe place for the four foreign U.N. workers on the compound, including the Russian chief of mission. But the door of the bunker was made to withstand a bomb attack, not the sheer force

of a crowd of people trying to get inside.

When the killers forced themselves inside they saw Pavel Ershov, the mission chief who is fluent in Dari, one of two languages spoken in Afghanistan. They beat him, but stopped after he convinced them, in Dari, that he was a Muslim, de Mistura said.

"He spoke the language and tried to draw their attention on himself," the envoy said. "For a moment, he hoped that they would think there was nobody else there."

But using a light, the attackers found the three other foreigners, then pulled them out and killed them one after the other. Two died of bullet wounds. The third was killed with a knife to the throat.

They were identified by officials in their home countries as: Joakim Dungel, a 33-year-old Swede who worked on human rights; Lt. Col. Siri Skare, a 53-year-old female pilot from Norway who was an adviser; and Filaret Motco, a 43-year-old Romanian who worked in the political section of the U.N.

De Mistura spoke to reporters in Kabul after flying back from Mazar-i-Sharif. He was at the airport in Kabul when the victims' bodies were flown

to the capital Saturday evening. In talking with top officials in Mazar-i-Sharif, he said he was convinced that the killers were insurgents, not demonstrators.

Protesters confiscated AK-47s from security officers at the scene, but all except one of the U.N. workers were killed with handguns, he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan riots over Quran-burning: 2 days, 20 dead

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghans rioted for a second day Saturday to protest the burning of a Quran in Florida, killing nine people in Kandahar and injuring more than 80 in a wave of violence that underscored rising anti-foreign sentiment after nearly a decade of war. The desecration at a small U.S. church has outraged Muslims worldwide, and in Afghanistan it further strained ties with the West. On Friday, 11 people were killed, including seven foreign U.N. employees, in a protest in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. The protests come at a critical juncture as the U.S.-led coalition gears up for an insurgent spring offensive and a summer withdrawal of some troops, and with Afghanistan's mercurial president increasingly questioning international motives and NATO's military strategy.

Pakistani militant group a global terror threat

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Created by Pakistan to wage a proxy war against India, the Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group has moved its jihad onto the global stage and could match al-

Qaida in strength and organization, according to officials, experts and group members. Blamed for the 2008 Mumbai massacre, Lashkar-e-Taiba has developed its own distinct networks worldwide, found global funding sources and established links with groups that refused to hook up with al-Qaida, fearing Osama bin Laden's group would hijack their causes, say analysts who have followed the organization. According to interviews with analysts, intelligence officials and anti-terrorism investigators on three continents, the group also known as LeT could be poised to expand its reach beyond South Asia.

Tibetan glaciers melting, says Dalai Lama

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Dalai Lama said Saturday that India should be seriously concerned about the melting of glaciers in the Tibetan plateau as millions of Indians use water that comes from there. The Tibetan spiritual leader quoted Chinese experts as saying that the Tibetan glaciers were retreating faster than anywhere else in the world. He called for special attention to ecology in Tibet. "It's something very, very essential," he said.

World

Libyan rebels say airstrike killed 13 of their own

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—A NATO airstrike intended to thwart Moammar Gadhafi's forces killed 13 rebel fighters in eastern Libya instead, the opposition said Saturday, but they described it as an "unfortunate accident" and stressed it did not diminish their support for the international air campaign.

The rebels' response to the attack—blaming it on a mistake within their ranks—highlighted their heavy dependence on the international air campaign as they face the superior military power of the longtime Libyan leader. The misfire also showed the challenges the coalition faces in identifying targets without coordination with forces on the ground.

"As regrettable as it may be, we understand that we might have to give up lives for the greater good. We have to look at the bigger picture," opposition spokesman Mustafa Gheriani said. "This is a war and the lines are so fluid going back and forth, so it's natural that mistakes will happen."

The slain fighters were hit Friday night as they moved forward, attempting to take back the oil city of Brega, while airstrikes were in progress. Seven fighters were injured. Another opposition spokesman, Abdel-Hafidh Ghoga, said it was an example of the lack of coordination in the ranks that has proven a key obstacle to victory over the more organized Libyan military.

Rebels without training—sometimes even without weapons—have rushed in and out of fighting in a free-for-all for more than six weeks, repeatedly getting trounced by Gadhafi's more heavily armed forces. But ex-military officers who have joined the rebel side have stepped up training efforts and taken a greater role in the fight.

"This unfortunate accident was a mistake that was caused by the rebels' advance during the coalition's attack," Ghoga said. "Now the military leadership that has been organized more effectively recently is working on preventing the recurrence of these accidents."

Sorting rebels from Gadhafi's forces has become more difficult recently, as some loyalists have given up tanks and other

UNREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST



LATEST EVENTS March 31, 2011

1. Libya

Government and rebel forces trade fire around the oil port of Brega; a second high-level defection in as many days, Ali Abdessalam Treki, a former foreign minister and U.N. General Assembly president, says he is leaving the Gadhafi regime

2. Egypt Three former top officials in ousted President Mubarak's government are banned from leaving the country, investigated for corruption

3. Syria President Assad has set up committees to replace the emergency laws and investigate deaths during the recent unrest; massive protests set for Friday

4. Kuwait Cabinet resigns over "regional developments" in an apparent reference to turmoil in Bahrain; Kuwait did not send forces into Bahrain as other Gulf Cooperation Council countries did

5. Bahrain Anti-government blogger released

© 2011 MCT
Source: AP

armored vehicles for the kind of equipment the rebels rely on: pickup truck and other vehicles equipped with makeshift armaments.

Two men badly injured in the strike said it happened at about 8 p.m. Friday after somebody fired heavy weaponry into the air as a rebel convoy made its way from Ajdabiya toward Brega.

"We all turned to him and said, 'Why the hell did you do that?'" said Ali Abdullah Zio, 28. He said it was a mistake, then pulled out of the convoy and drove back to Ajdabiya. Moments later there was an airstrike.

"We were just driving along and then everything was on fire," said 19-year-old Ibrahim al-Shahaibi. "It's fate. They must have thought we were Gadhafi's brigades when they hit us. We need to get rid of him."

Al-Shahaibi was covered up to his chest in a fuzzy brown blanket in the intensive care unit at Benghazi's Jalaa hospital. His right leg was amputated below the knee and his face had severe burns.

Zio, an economics student at Qar Younis University in

Benghazi, also was lying in a hospital bed, with a swollen face and his head and hands wrapped in white bandages. He was unable to open his eyes. But he said he wasn't angry, and planned to return to the front as soon as possible.

"It's the coalition that protects us," he said.

NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said the alliance was investigating the reports.

"The exact details are hard to verify because we have no reliable source on the ground," Lungescu said. "Clearly, if someone fires at one of our aircraft they have the right to defend themselves."

Rebels told The Associated Press that the fighters were hit about 12 miles (20 kilometers) east of Brega, which has gone back and forth between rebel and government hands in recent weeks.

NATO, which on Thursday took over what had been a U.S.-led military campaign to stop Gadhafi from attacking his own people, also is investigating whether other airstrikes have killed civilians in western Libya, as the Libyan gov-

ernment claims. The United States, meanwhile, was ending its role in combat missions Saturday, leaving that work for other nations.

Rebels control much of eastern Libya, but in the west the only major city they hold is Misrata, which has been besieged for weeks by Gadhafi forces who have cut off water, power and food supplies.

Medical officials said Saturday that government forces killed 37 civilians over the past two days in an unrelenting campaign of shelling and sniper fire and an attack that burned down the city's main stocks of flour and sugar.

"One of the snipers kept shooting at one car, and it caught fire. We couldn't save them. They were burnt to death," a doctor said. He said a Turkish ship that delivered medical supplies to Misrata left with some of the wounded.

Over the past month and a half, 243 people have been killed and some 1,000 wounded, according to the medical officials, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Charity: More than 1,000 killed in Ivory Coast town

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Unknown attackers wielding machetes and guns killed more than 1,000 civilians in the neighborhood of an Ivory Coast town controlled by forces fighting to install the internationally recognized president, the Catholic charity Caritas told The Associated Press Saturday.

The U.N. mission in Ivory Coast said it has a team investigating the alleged mass killings in western Duekoue. It said most of the nearly 1,000 peacekeepers based there were protecting about 15,000 refugees at a Catholic mission in the town at the time.

Spokesman Patrick Nicholson of the Roman Catholic charity Caritas said workers visited Duekoue on Wednesday and found hundreds of bodies of civilians killed by bullets from small-arms fire and hacked to death with machetes.

They estimated more than 1,000 civilians were killed, he said.

The International Federation of the Red Cross put the death toll at about 800, in separate and independent visits Thursday and Friday.

Nicholson, the Caritas spokesman, said the killings occurred over three days in a neighborhood controlled by fighters loyal to internationally recognized President Alassane Ouattara, though it was not clear who the perpetrators were.

"The massacre took place in the 'Carrefour' quarter of town, controlled by pro-Ouattara forces, during clashes on Sunday 27 March to Tuesday 29 March," Nicholson said. "Caritas does not know who was responsible for the killing, but says a proper investigation must take place to establish the truth."

He said the victims included many refugees from fighting elsewhere in the country, where rival forces had been battling over a disputed November election.

Caritas' investigation would indicate that people were killed at close quarters in a small neighborhood of a town of just 50,000 people as pro-

Ouattara fighters began a two-pronged assault that brought them swiftly to Abidjan, the commercial capital and seat of power, within days.

The charges would be a strong blow to the embattled government of Ouattara, who is calling for entrenched incumbent Laurent Gbagbo to cede power after losing November's poll.

Ouattara's camp denied forces fighting for it were involved in any atrocities including in western Ivory Coast, but did not refer to the latest allegations. Efforts to reach Ouattara's spokesman Saturday were unsuccessful.

Previously, the United Nations put the death toll at 492 from four months of fighting.

U.N. military spokesman Col. Chaib Rais said he had "no special report" of mass killings: "There was fighting two days before, on Sunday, and people were killed, but I cannot confirm those numbers."

On Monday, fighters loyal to Ouattara said they seized Duekoue from Gbagbo forces. But Nicholson said interviews with survivors indicated pro-Ouattara forces had control of Carrefour neighborhood from Sunday.

ICRC spokeswoman Dorothea Krimitsas said "inter-communal violence" erupted there, apparently on Tuesday.

"We think there is a risk that this kind of event can happen again and hope that by calling today again for protection for the civilian population, we hope that such events can be avoided in the future," Krimitsas told The Associated Press by phone from Geneva.

The area has been a hotbed for conflict between two rival tribes supporting Ouattara and Gbagbo, who refuses to accept his election defeat.

The International Organization of Migration said Friday that tens of thousands of refugees have overcrowded Duekoue and that others who had fled the violence there "are now stranded along the route, in fear for their lives."

WORLD BRIEFS

Syria tightens security following protests

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian security agents tightened security and made sweeping arrests Saturday as President Bashar Assad tried to cut off two weeks of deadly pro-democracy demonstrations that are threatening his family's ruling dynasty. The death

toll from two weeks of protests was around 80 people, after at least seven were killed Friday in clashes with security forces. Authorities began arresting dozens of people, mostly in and around the capital, Damascus, in the hours after the protests broke up and into early Saturday, activists said. They asked that their names

not be used for fear of reprisals. The extraordinary wave of protests has proved the most serious challenge yet to the Assad family's 40-year dynasty, one of the most rigid regimes in the Middle East. After Assad blamed a "foreign conspiracy" for the unrest and offered limited gestures of reform, protesters who had ex-

pected more from him returned to the streets.

Bahrain bans main opposition newspaper

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Bahraini authorities have banned the country's main opposition newspaper in a widening effort to muzzle anti-government me-

dia. The newspaper Al-Wasat did not publish Sunday after a message on state TV saying Bahrain's Information Ministry has ordered the paper to shut down. The state-run Bahrain News Agency says officials accuse Al-Wasat of "unethical" coverage of the Shiite-led uprising against the country's Sunni

rulers. Bahrain has sharply tightened Internet and media controls under military rule imposed last month after weeks of protests and clashes by groups seeking to break the monarchy's grip on power in the strategic Gulf nation, which is home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Al-Wasat's online edition also was blocked.

Health & Fitness

Autism fears, measles spike among Minn. Somalis

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Health officials struggling to contain a measles outbreak that's hit hard in Minneapolis' large Somali community are running into resistance from parents who fear the vaccine could give their children autism.

Fourteen confirmed measles cases have been reported in Minnesota since February. Half have been in Somali children, six of whom were not vaccinated and one who was not old enough for shots. State officials have linked all but one of the cases to an unvaccinated Somali infant who returned from a trip to Kenya in February. The state had reported zero or one case of measles a year for most of the past decade. Amid the outbreak, a now-discredited British researcher who claimed there was a link between vaccines and autism has been meeting with local Somalis. Some worry Andrew Wakefield is stoking vaccination fears, but organizers say the meetings were merely a chance for parents to ask him questions.

"Unfortunately a lot of the media thinks he's saying 'Don't get vaccinated.' That's far from the truth. He's basically encouraging people to get vaccinated but do your homework and know the risks," said Wayne Rohde, a co-founder of the Vaccine Safety Council of Minnesota, which says parents should have other options for immunizing their children.

Measles has been all but eradicated in the United States, but accounts for about 200,000 annual deaths worldwide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. None of those infect-

In this March 29, 2011 photo, Hodan Hassan is shown at her Minneapolis home with her six-year-old daughter Geni who has autism. Health officials struggling to contain a measles outbreak that's hit hard in Minneapolis' large Somali community are running into resistance from parents who fear the vaccine could give their children autism.

AP



Personal Trainer

Basics of basketball dribbling

It's one of the basic skills of basketball, and knowing when to dribble and when not to is as important as knowing how to do it.

Head up, fingers spread

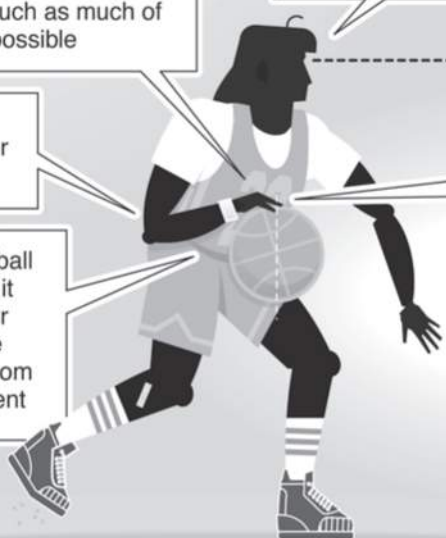
Use your fingers – not your palm – to touch as much of the ball as possible

Keep elbow close to your body

Protect the ball by dribbling it close to your body, on the side away from your opponent

Keep your eyes on your teammates and your opponents; control the ball by feel, not by looking at it

Unless you're changing direction, touch the ball exactly on its top each time you bounce it



Dribble, pass or shoot?

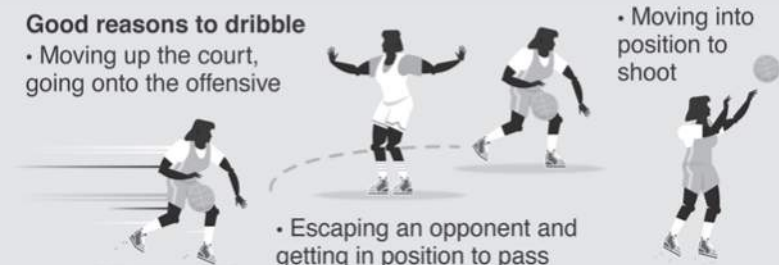
You don't need to dribble the ball every time you get it; doing so slows up your team and wastes your momentum

Good reasons to dribble

- Moving up the court, going onto the offensive

- Moving into position to shoot

- Escaping an opponent and getting in position to pass



ed in Minnesota have died, though eight have required hospitalization.

The infections come as autism concerns have surged over an apparent rise in cases in Minnesota's Somali community, the largest in the U.S. Officials, though, haven't determined if that's really happening.

The Minnesota Department of Public Health found in 2009 that young Somali children in Minneapolis public schools were over-represented in autism programs, but cautioned that alone didn't prove a higher rate of autism. The CDC and National Institutes of Health are working with the advocacy group Autism Speaks on a more systematic study.

Critics argue new efforts are moving too slowly. The lack of answers has frustrated parents of autistic children like Idil Abdull, co-founder of the Somali American Autism Foundation. Abdull, who lives in suburban Savage, said public officials need to be more active with research, resources and services.

Meanwhile, Somali parents hungry for information have met with Wakefield during three recent visits facilitated by local autism activists.

Wakefield's work fueled a backlash against childhood vaccinations after he published a 1998 paper in the medical journal *Lancet* linking autism to the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine in a dozen children. But other medical researchers and the *Sunday Times* of London called Wakefield's work into question. The *Lancet* retracted his paper last year, the U.K.'s General Medical Council ordered that his name be erased from the country's medical register, and the *British Medical Journal* in January denounced him as a fraud.

Wakefield does not have a listed tele-

phone number and has not responded to emails sent by The Associated Press or messages left with his publisher. But he issued a statement in January standing by his work and calling for more research to determine if environmental triggers, including vaccines, cause autism.

"Any medical professional, government official or journalist who states that the case is closed on whether vaccines cause autism is jumping to conclusions without the research to back it up," he said.

Numerous studies addressing autism and vaccines, or the mercury-based preservative thimerosal, which was formerly used to preserve vaccines, have so far found no link.

About 100 parents attended Wakefield's first Minneapolis appearance in December. About 15 met with him during his most recent visit, on March 23. Rohde said he and others were asked to arrange the meeting by Somali parents who wanted the chance to question Wakefield privately.

Several parents said they were wary of the MMR vaccine because measles is usually temporary while autism is permanent, said Rohde, who lives in suburban Woodbury and has a 13-year-old with autism. Rohde said he doesn't claim the vaccine caused his son's autism by itself but believes it was a factor.

Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed, a Minneapolis Somali family practice physician, contends Wakefield has caused a global hysteria that has cost lives. He said he has warned the Somali community to stay away from the researcher.

"He's using a vulnerable population here, mothers looking for answers," Mohamed said. "He's providing a fake hope."

Hodan Hassan, of Minneapolis, said she stopped vaccinating her four children after her daughter Geni, now 6, was diagnosed with autism when she was about a year old. Hassan said she went to Wakefield's presentation in December and considered him a hero. Then a doctor friend urged her to take a closer look at the rejection of Wakefield's research.

"I feel personally hurt because I believed in him and trusted him and now I find out all these lies and other things out there," said Hassan, who is currently getting all her children up to date on their shots. Minnesota requires that all children enrolled in school be vaccinated against measles and other common diseases, but parents can opt out for "conscientiously held beliefs."

Health officials are working with Somali community leaders to urge more parents to get their children vaccinated, though few people have taken advantage of recent clinics. One clinic conducted last weekend by Children's Hospital in Minneapolis prepared 600 doses, but only 20 children and four adults showed up. Three were Somalis, said Patsy Stinchfield, director of the infectious disease program for Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota.

"There is still a significant level of concern in the Somali community, and deservedly so, acknowledged said Minnesota Department of Public Health spokesman Buddy Ferguson, noting scientists still don't know what causes autism.

"What we can tell people is that numerous attempts have been made to test the idea scientifically that there's a link between vaccines and autism using large, well-designed studies," he said. "They've never been able to find a link."

Life & Style

Monet's 'Water Lilies' at Kansas City museum

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—One of impressionist master Claude Monet's "Water Lilies" triptychs, separated 50 years ago and sold to three museums, has been reunited in a multifaceted exhibit that highlights not only the three-panel artwork, but the artist too.

"I think all of us think of Monet as this father of Impressionism, as this painter who was spontaneous, who painted outdoors in his garden," said Nicole Myers, associate curator at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, where "Monet's Water Lilies" opens April 9. "That was certainly true. He presented himself that way publicly, really to the end of his life."

But Monet had another side that's also detailed in the exhibition, which ends Aug. 7 before moving on to the St. Louis Art Museum and then to the Cleveland Museum of Art.

"With these later paintings from the 20th century that he's working on, you see the sort of obsessive, almost obsessive-compulsive, artist who came indoors and worked tirelessly making revisions again and again in this kind of obsessive way," she said.

It's unclear if Monet ever considered the three panels finished, she said.

"And it really blows out of the water this impression we have of this man who just sort of dashed off his first thoughts and left things alone. He worked on them almost consistently from 1915 to 1926," Myers said.

The three panels, each 6-feet tall and 14-feet wide, languished in Monet's studio at Giverny outside Paris after his death in 1926, Myers said. The pieces on display at the Nelson-Atkins comprise one of two of Monet's Water Lily triptychs in the U.S. The other is at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where they are a steady, popular selection.

"What's amazing about them is the mood they create in the room where they're installed," said Ann Temkin's, MoMA's chief curator of paintings and sculpture. "It's a magical one. It becomes a very quiet place. The visitors become quite contemplative."

The triptych at the Nelson-Atkins was brought to New York in the 1950s. It was then separated, and the individual panels were sold to the St. Louis Art Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Nelson-Atkins. It has been more than 30 years however, since they were shown as Monet intended for them to be



seen—together.

"So for a new generation this is really a first time to get the chance to see these great paintings come together," Myers said.

The paintings, alone in the exhibit's main room where they provide a serene and powerful display of water, light and nature, are clearly the centerpiece.

Nicole Myers, Associate Curator of European Painting and Sculpture at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, left, talks about Claude Monet's painting technique used on his painting "Water Lilies" as Mary Schafer, associate conservator, shines a light on a section of the work during a media preview, Friday, April 1, 2011, in Kansas City, Mo. AP

Malcolm X scholar Manning Marable dies at 60

NEW YORK (AP)—Manning Marable, an influential historian whose forthcoming Malcolm X biography could revise perceptions of the slain civil rights leader, died Friday, just days before the book described as his life's work was to be released. He was 60.

His wife, Leith Mullings, said Marable died from complications of pneumonia at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan. She said he had suffered for 24 years from sarcoidosis, an inflammatory lung disease, and had undergone a double lung transplant in July.

"I think his legacy is that he was both a scholar and an activist," she said. "He believed that history could be used to inform the present and the future."

She said Marable's latest book, "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention," will be released Monday.

Two decades in the making, the nearly 600-page biography is described as a re-evaluation of Malcolm X's life, bringing fresh insight to subjects including his autobiography, which is still assigned in many college courses, to his assassination at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan on Feb. 21, 1965.

The book is based on exhaustive research, including thousands of pages of FBI files and records from the Central Intelligence Agency and State Department. Marable also conducted interviews with the slain civil rights leader's confidants and security team, as well as witnesses to his assassination.

Blair Kelley, a history professor at North Carolina State University, called Marable's death a "devastating" loss for black historians.

"I can't believe he died before the book came out. He really deserved the opportunity to be celebrated for his groundbreaking scholarship," Kelley wrote on Twitter. "He touched so many of us as an activist, scholar, historian, political scientist, publisher, mentor. Truly a great man."

Benjamin Todd Jealous, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said in a statement that Marable's "contributions to the struggle for freedom of African Americans will never be forgotten."

"Dr. Marable brought one of the keenest intellects of our age to the contemporary conversation on race in America," he said.

In Celebration of Her New Life †Margarita Tudela Camacho Muña

Lovingly known as "Tan Margaritan Kulas"

Born: June 5, 1923 • Died: March 28, 2011

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: †Antonio Palacios Camacho

Mother: †Maria Sablan Tudela Camacho

Sons: †Francisco C. Muña, †Nicolas C. Muña, †Olympio C. Muña

Sisters: †Concepcion C. Muña, †Cecilia T. Camacho, †Romana T. Camacho, †Baleriana T. Camacho

Brothers: †Lorenzo T. Camacho, †Jose T. Camacho, †Jesus T. Camacho, †Pedro T. Camacho

Parents-in-Law: †Jose Duenas Muña & †Ana Quidachai Muña

Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws: †Victoria Ch. Camacho, †Juana L. Camacho, †Rita S. Camacho, †Antonia S. Camacho, †Carmen S. Camacho, †Rosario L. Camacho, †Jose A. Muña, †Jose Q. Muña/†Crescencia T. Muña, †Cornelia Q. Muña, †Juan Q. Muña/†Dolores C. Muña, †Luisa Muña Camacho/†Pedro R. Camacho, †Victoria Muña Benavente/†Antonio M. Benavente

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Nicolas Quidachai Muña "Tun Kulas"

Children and Families:

■ **Antonio Camacho Muña/Maria P. Muña** (Frankie/Rosie LG. Muña, Tina/Francisco C. Aguon, Anthony/Trinidad S. Muña, Kenneth/Maria C. Muña, Nick/Esther L. Muña, Joycelyn/Francisco A. Reyes, Dwayne P. Muña, Joseph/Linda B. Muña, Ly'ana P. Muña, Joseph P. Muña Jr.)

■ **Cecilia Muña Villagomez/†Roman T. Villagomez** (Maria Margarita Villagomez/Jason Leon Guerrero, Antonette Carmen Villagomez/Jesse James Teigita, Jose Roman Villagomez/Virgina Cruz)

■ **Jesus Camacho Muña/Dorothea C. Muña** (†Jesus C. Muña, Jr., Geraldine/Mark Mendiola, Caroline/Jered Lutu, Alfred/Grace Muña)

■ **Jose Camacho Muña/Janet I. Muña** (Jessica/Michael Manglona, Marie I. Muña, Joanna/Peter Damian, Joey I. Muña)

■ **Maria Muña McDill/Henry McDill** (Katherine, Geraldine/Butch Wisehart, Glenn, Mathew, Douglas, Robert)

■ **Cornelia Camacho Muña**

■ **Delfina Camacho Muña** (Glenn Paul/Elisa Muña)

■ **Ana Muña Sablan/Herman P. Sablan** (Leolani R. Repeki/Jack Repeki, Kolin M. Reyes/Rose Guerrero, Marvin Reyes, Ashley/Ryan Tudela)

■ **Francisco Camacho Muña/Joyce Muña** (Meagan, Margaret, Cheyenne)

■ **Maria Margarita Muña Reyes/Joseph A. Reyes** (Rosie/Sylvan, Joseph Jr., Jeffrey, Julian/Jeding, Roman)

■ **†Olympio Camacho Muña/Barbara S. Van Meter** (Justin Keith/Katelynn Borja, Olympio Jr./Kenja Faisao, Nick Atanacio S. Muña, Mary Margaret/Barnes Reyes)

■ **Merced Camacho Muña/Isidro R. Sablan** (Jolene Nicole/Jesse DLGuerrero, Robert Herman, Sidney John, Nick Jesse)

Our Nana is additionally survived by eighty-two Great Grandchildren and eighteen Great-Great Grandchildren.

Daily Mass of intention is being celebrated at 6:00am at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00pm.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, April 05, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am.

Holy Rosary will be recited at 10:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00pm. Interment Services will follow at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery at Marpi, Saipan where she will be at a peaceful rest.

We thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Tun Kulas Muña and Family

Sheen bombs on opening night of 20-city stage tour

DETROIT (AP)—Charlie Sheen and his “goddesses” took the stage to thunderous applause Saturday night for the first leg of his “Torpedo of Truth” tour. The 70-minute show hadn’t even ended when the first reviews were in, and they were brutal.

The former “Two and a Half Men” star showed that comedic success on the screen doesn’t necessarily translate to the stage, and the capacity crowd at Detroit’s 5,100-seat Fox Theatre rebelled before the show ended, chanting “refund!” and walking out in droves.

Linda Fugate, 47, of the Detroit suburb of Lincoln Park, left the theater and walked up the street yelling, “I want my money back!”

She said she paid \$150 for two seats.

“I was hoping for something. I didn’t think it would be this bad.”

Sheen’s publicist Larry Solters declined to comment after the show, but Sheen reappeared after the house lights went up to thank those who remained.

Fans who arrived at the theater—some who had to fly in for the show—said they were hoping to see the increasingly eccentric actor deliver some of the colorful rants that have made him an Internet star since his ugly falling out with CBS and the producers of “Two and a Half Men.”

They got the ranting. It just wasn’t funny.

“I expected him to at least entertain a little bit. It was just a bunch of ranting,” said Rodney Gagnon, 34, of

Windsor, Ontario.

On Twitter, where Sheen has amassed some 3.4 million followers, some fans were already predicting a premature end for the planned 20-city tour, which was scheduled to resume Sunday in Chicago.

“Charlie Sheen thanks for saying goodbye! Piece of advice cancel the rest of your tour,” someone tweeted under the name ChrstosMo.

The show started well for the 45-year-old Sheen, with the audience standing and cheering as he and the women he calls his “goddesses” took the stage. The women, a former porn star and an actress who live with him, carried placards with the words “War” and “Lock,” a reference to Sheen’s recent description of himself as a warlock.

“I don’t see a single empty seat,” he said.

Not long into the show, though, an audience member booed, prompting Sheen to sanguinely reply, “I’ve already got your money, dude.”

Things only got worse.

Among the low points was when Sheen screened a short film he wrote, directed and produced years ago called “RPG.” He sat in the front row to watch the film, which starred a much younger Johnny Depp. Boos were heard throughout.

“Tonight’s an experiment,” he said.

Sheen had said rapper Snoop Dogg would perform at the show, but he didn’t. Instead, the show ended with a video for a new Snoop Dogg song. By then, many fans had left.

Toronto-area resident Ronnie Prentice, 37, was one of several fans who arrived at the theater before it opened Saturday saying they hoped to see Sheen rant.

“It’s kind of like a NASCAR race. You’re just tuning in because you’re just waiting for the accident to happen,” said Prentice.

Geoff Rezek, 69, a computer consultant from Darien, Conn., flew in from New York to see what he believed was going to be “history in the making.”



An image of Charlie Sheen is projected in the background as he performs at the Fox Theatre in Detroit, Saturday, April 2, 2011.

Depp, Cyrus win but avoid slime at Kids’ Choice

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Johnny Depp showed his appreciation for his Kids’ Choice Award with a sliming.

After earning the blimp-shaped favorite movie actor trophy for his Mad Hatter role in “Alice in Wonderland,” Depp manned a hose and unleashed waves of green goop on the screaming crowd of more than 10,000 kids—and a few adults.

“You guys are the future,” he said Saturday before spraying the slime inside University of Southern California’s Galen Center. “Take good care of us.”

The screaming mob at Nickelodeon’s 24th annual fan-favorite ceremony later revolted by flicking the goo at “Modern Family” co-star Rico Rodriguez and “Arthur” leading man Russell Brand as they presented Eddie Murphy with the award for favorite voice from an animated movie for his role in “Shrek Forever After.”

Rodriguez and Brand struggled to recite their introduction as the green stuff was slung at them.

“Johnny, I wish you’d drowned them!” screeched Brand.

Jack Black, the zany master of ceremonies, kicked off the silly show by arriving in a monster



Show host Jack Black gets slimed at Nickelodeon’s 24th Annual Kids’ Choice Awards on Saturday, April 2, 2011, in Los Angeles.

truck, performing a flash mob-style routine on the orange carpet, then dancing alongside the Black Eyed Peas, who crooned a medley of their tunes while sporting outfits made of colorful blocks. He announced that more than 200 million votes were cast for the show.

Other winners included “The Karate Kid” for movie, “The Karate Kid” co-star Jackie Chan for butt-kicker, “Despicable Me” for animated movie, “iCarly” for TV show, “Wizards of Waverly Place” star Selena Gomez for TV actress, “The Suite

Life on Deck” co-star Dylan Sprouse for TV actor, “iCarly” co-star Jennette McCurdy for TV sidekick, “American Idol” for reality TV show, “SpongeBob SquarePants” for cartoon and “Just Dance 2” for video game.

“Thanks for voting until your fingers were sore,” screamed McCurdy. “Grandma, that’s you!”

In the music categories, the winners of blimp-shaped trophies were the Black Eyed Peas for music group, Katy Perry for female singer and Justin Bieber for male singer and song for “Baby.” The favorites in the

“I wouldn’t miss the first show. Who knows if there’s going to be a second show?” Rezek said, perhaps prophetically. He also bought a ticket for Sheen’s show next week in Connecticut.

Sheen has made headlines in recent years as much for his drug use, failed marriages, custody disputes and run-ins with the police, as for his acting. His father, actor Martin Sheen, has compared his son’s struggle with addiction to a cancer pa-

tient’s struggle for survival.

In August, the wayward star pleaded guilty in Aspen, Colo., to misdemeanor third-degree assault after a Christmas Day altercation with his third wife, Brooke Mueller. The couple recently finalized their divorce.

Charlie Sheen’s behavior, which included lashing out at “Two and a Half Men” producer Chuck Lorre, finally became too much for Warner Bros. Television, which fired him on March 7.

Sheen fired back with a \$100 million lawsuit and all-out media assault in which he informed the world about his standing as a “rock star from Mars” and a “warlock” with “Adonis DNA.”

It was not immediately clear how Saturday’s poor performance would affect the rest of the tour, which is scheduled to wrap up May 3 in Seattle.

Ronnie Dunn obsesses over first show since duo split

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Ronnie Dunn came to Las Vegas two days early to get ready for The Academy of Country Music Awards and his first concert since the iconic duo Brooks & Dunn dissolved last September.

He wanted to get his voice acclimated to the dry desert air and obsess over the details. He says that while most of his compatriots are out partying, he’s been in his room worrying.

The 57-year-old Dunn will debut his first set of new material publicly Saturday night at the ACM Concerts at Fremont Street Experience. Then he’ll perform his new single, “Bleed Red,” during Sunday’s show, aired live on CBS from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. He said Friday after rehearsals that he’s not sure if fans will

demand he play hits from his Brooks & Dunn days during the Fremont concert, and

plans to “make it up as I go.” “I’ve had lectures from everybody,” Dunn said. “A good friend, Barbara Orbison, Roy Orbison’s widow, was telling me she knows Paul McCartney and she talked about all the anxiety that he went through—and I didn’t know this—about doing Beatles songs when he first came out and still to this day there are certain songs that he still has a lot of anxiety about doing.”

Dunn will release his first post-Brooks & Dunn album on June 7. He produced the self-titled record and has been enjoying the life as a solo artist after more than 20 years with Kix Brooks. The duo was a mainstay at the awards and he’s had plenty of experience in Vegas.

“It’s a blast,” Dunn said. “This is probably the most fun awards show to come to—and that can be good and bad.”

Some among the crowd, though, defended the performance with the type of defiance that would have made the actor proud.

“I love my city, but I’m just disgusted with what happened tonight,” said Sarah Cappuccitti, 31, a hair stylist from Westland.

“People needed to shut the heck up.”



In this April 19, 2010 file photo country singer Ronnie Dunn performs at the Brooks & Dunn “The Last Rodeo” tribute concert in Las Vegas.

Lohan, rehab worker heard yelling on 911 call

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A rehab worker told a 911 dispatcher that she ordered Lindsay Lohan to pack her bags and leave the Betty Ford Center after the actress hit her during a December argument, according to a recording of the call released Friday.

The six-minute call started with a chaotic exchange between Lohan and the worker, Dawn Holland, arguing over control of the phone at the facility in Palm Desert.

Later, Holland told the dispatcher she wanted to press charges.

"I have a problem because Lindsay Lohan pushed me and hit me with the phone while I was trying to talk to you," Holland said on the recording.

A phone message for Lohan's attorney, Shawn Holley, seeking comment on the recording was not immediately returned Friday.

Lohan was nearing the end of a three-month court-ordered rehab stint at the center



AP
In this Jan. 9, 2011 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan is shown at an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Laker and the New York Knicks in Los Angeles.

after authorities said she failed a drug screening.

The Dec. 12 call resulted in an investigation by Riverside County sheriff's detectives into Holland's accusations.

Prosecutors said Tuesday they found insufficient evidence to file any charges.

At one point during the call, Lohan told the dispatcher she had never seen Holland before.

"She's freaking me out," Lohan said when she was able to get on the phone.

Commotion was then heard before Holland returned to the line.

"Lindsay, you need to pack your (expletive)," Holland told the actress. "Cause now I'm getting ready to file charges on you."

Lohan then asked Holland pointedly, "What, you want money?"

Holland said no and told Lohan she wanted to be treated with respect. By that point, the two women were yelling at one another and the audio became garbled.

The call was lost and a dispatcher had to call the facility back. Holland returned to the line and said Lohan was among three girls caught leaving the property without permission. The two other girls reeked of alcohol, Holland said.

Two of the women, including Lohan, were refusing breathalyzer tests, which prompted the argument, Holland told the dispatcher.

Shelton says he'll keep it clean at ACMs—sort of

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Miranda Lambert has a warning for The Academy of Country Music Awards producers: Keep a finger on the "bleep" button.

She's worried her fiancé may let fly with one of the seven dirty words outlawed on television as he joins Reba McEntire as co-host of the show Sunday at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"He's so quick and good at ad-libbing—probably too good at ad-libbing," said Lambert, the lead awards nominee with seven. "My advice to CBS was a three-second delay, 'cause you never know what's going to come out of his mouth."

Shelton, known for his quick wit and saucy jokes, says he's going to try to keep from disappointing Reba, a longtime friend who doesn't always find his antics funny. They've been



AP
In this Feb. 13, 2011 file photo, Blake Shelton, left, and Miranda Lambert arrive at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

friends for years, and he says he's learned to tell how she feels about his jokes based on her facial expressions.

"If you can ever imagine what Reba would look like if

she threw up in her mouth a little bit, the look that would be on her face, that will be the look on her face whenever I'm telling my jokes out there," Shelton said.

Penelope Cruz gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Penelope Cruz has been enshrined in concrete.

The Oscar-winning actress unveiled her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Friday, flanked by leading men Javier Bardem and Johnny Depp.

The event is timed ahead of next month's release of "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," in which she stars with Depp.

The Spanish star says that when she came to the United States in 1994, she only knew how to say "How are you?" and "I want to work with Johnny Depp" in English.

She jokes that now, she knows how to say "I want to work with Johnny Depp again."

The 36-year-old actress co-starred with husband Bardem in her Oscar-winning role in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." They welcomed their son in January.



AP
Spanish actress Penelope Cruz poses as she is honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday, April 1, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Ex-wife's history of cheating prompts question of paternity

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I divorced after she had a year-long affair with a co-worker, whom she eventually married. Early in our marriage I suspected she was having an affair with a relative, which she finally admitted to after our divorce.

Now that our youngest son, "Douglas," has become an adult, he is beginning to strongly resemble his "Uncle Joel." I don't know if other members of our large family have noticed, but when I asked my ex if it's possible that Douglas is not my biological son, she became very quiet. I passed a note to Joel, but he blew it off without comment.

Douglas will soon be moving far away to begin his career and does not suspect anything. Should he be told who his real father is? Should his siblings be told the truth, or should I let Joel and my ex continue to lie as though nothing ever happened?

DAD WITH A DILEMMA IN MICHIGAN

DEAR DAD: Unless you are 100 percent certain that Douglas is not your child, you should not tell him otherwise. And the same goes for his siblings.

Before you take this any further, my advice is to discuss this with your lawyer because children born "within the bonds of wedlock" are presumed to be the husband's. However, if there is irrefutable proof that you are not Douglas' biological father, he should be informed so he can be aware of any medical information he may need in the future.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are childless. I have two young nephews whom I adore. We have offered to baby-sit whenever my brother and sister-in-law need a night out. Sadly, we have been overlooked. Instead, our sister-in-law asks her younger sister to baby-sit. I understand that my sister-in-law is very close to her sister, but I can't help feeling insulted and a little jealous.

I'm a teacher, and my husband and I have good judgment. We also live closer than her sister does. I am struggling with these feelings, and I'm not sure if I should say anything.

NOT FIRST CHOICE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NOT FIRST CHOICE: Of course you should speak up. It's certainly better than fuming and harboring hurt feelings. Not knowing your sister-in-law, it's hard to say why she has been reluctant to have you baby-sit. Perhaps she has simply fallen into a routine with her sister. Better to get this out in the open than to brood.

DEAR ABBY: A close relative became engaged last year. "Albert" is in his late 30s and has never been married. The family was delighted and welcomed his fiancée, "Claudia," with open arms. They have set a wedding date for later this year.

However, we have begun to witness Claudia's out-of-control behavior. There have been instances of screaming, abusive language and tantrums over simple things when she didn't get her way. She has always demanded that Albert support her behavior no matter how inappropriate it was.

Several family members had private conversations with Albert to warn him that the abuse will only get worse if they marry. Instead of heeding our warnings, he told Claudia about it. Now they are both alienated from the family and still planning to be married. What do we do now?

AFRAID FOR HIS FUTURE IN ALABAMA

DEAR AFRAID FOR HIS FUTURE: Now you wait to see if you are on the guest list. And if you are, you will have to decide if you want to attend, which will imply that you approve of a union you think will be a disaster.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

He says he's not sure exactly which words are forbidden, but he has a few in mind he plans to use that he thinks will make it past censors. He's been advised to stick to the script, but isn't making any promises.

"If I don't get fired, then I haven't done my job," Shelton quipped.

Biopic with Travolta:
'Gotti: Three Generations'



AP
In this Feb. 5, 2011 file photo, U.S. actor John Travolta arrives for the 46th Golden Camera media award gala in Berlin, Germany.

A highly anticipated film starring John Travolta as the leader of the legendary Gambino crime family has a name: "Gotti: Three Generations."

Film spokesman Steve Honig confirmed the title Saturday and says the biopic about "Dapper Don" John Gotti will be shot on a budget of about \$75 million this year.

Honig says details would be released April 12 at a news conference in New York, where the project will be filmed.

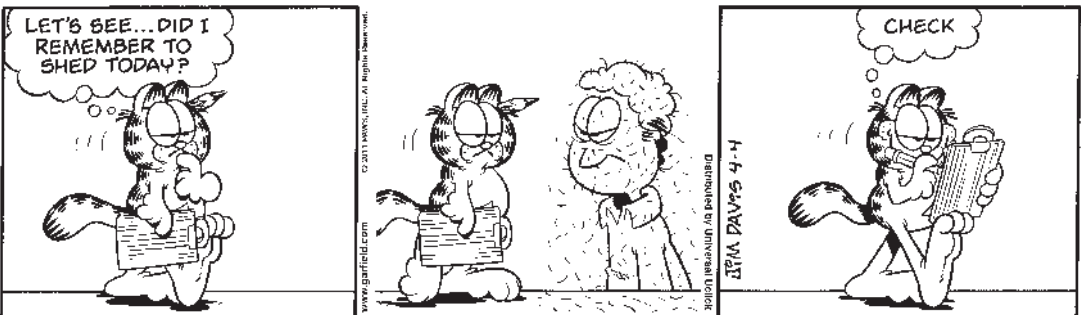
A person with knowledge of the film who spoke on condition of anonymity because it hadn't been announced has said it will be produced by Marc Fiore and directed by Nick Cassavetes. (AP)

Pastimes

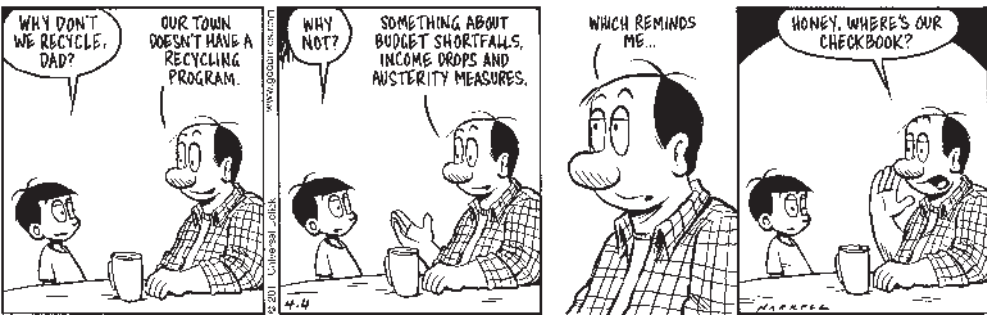
Calvin and Hobbes



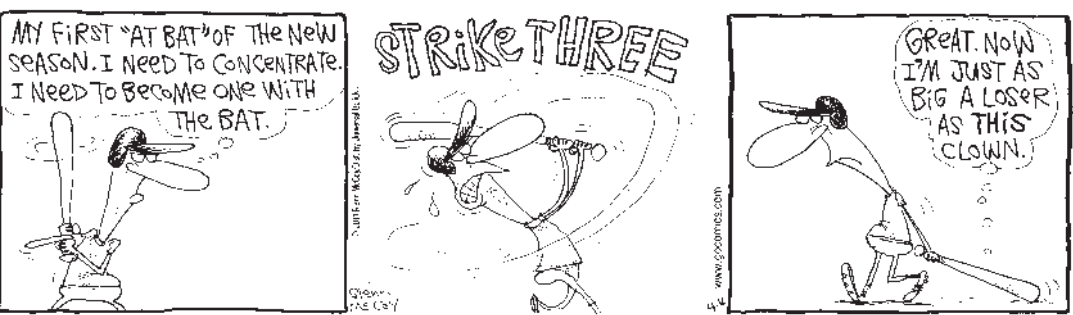
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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18	bottle	53	11	28	Amoristic
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20	on	sash	13	30	garland
20	Served	54	14	31	Carib-
21	tea	Earthen-	15	32	bean or
21	Appear	ware	16	33	Caspian
23	to be	pot	17	34	Depend
23	Spoon-	55	18	35	(on)
24	bender	Sea	19	36	Moun-
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24	Outward	56	21	38	spikes
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31	fish	monitor	24	41	Calendar
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			36	53	Resorts
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			39	56	network
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Solution time: 24 mins.

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S	E	R	E	N	E	F	A	L	L	O
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A	P	E	I	O	N	R	A	D		
D	E	T	R	O	I	T	T	I	C	E
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S	E	N	L	A	R	D	T	O	G	O
T	A	I	P	A	N	P	R	E	M	E
A	R	T	I	S	T	A	U	R	A	T
G	I	Y	P	H	S	T	E	F	N	S

Saturday's answer 4-4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13						
15				16						
18				19			20			
			21			22	23			
24	25	26				27	28	29	30	
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42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49				50				51		
52				53				54		
55				56				57		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Blaine, 38; Robert Downey Jr., 46; Christine Lahti, 61; Craig T. Nelson, 67

Happy Birthday: It's a new year and with it comes plenty of change. Love and romance are highlighted. You will grow intellectually the more you interact and share with others. Learning will come easily and will contribute to your success. Preparation is the key to your future. Your numbers are 9, 14, 23, 26, 30, 42, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a closer look at your motives before you move forward. Money matters will fluctuate if you are not honest with yourself regarding what you actually need. Impulse buys must be minimized while budgeting and investing wisely are emphasized. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The less time you have, the more efficient you will become. Motivation will be the key to getting others involved and accomplishing your goals. Don't wait for someone else to make a move when it's you who needs to get the ball rolling. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your vivid imagination will lead to fantastic ideas but it's best to develop what you have in mind before you make a presentation. Giving away too much information will work against you and help your competition. Don't let a love incident slow you down. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In order to accomplish, compromise will be required. Concentrate on partnerships and getting along instead of getting your way. Back

off if someone becomes hostile. Patience will be required. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will not be denied if you have a well-thought-out plan with a good explanation as to your objectives heading in the future. Give and take and brainstorming will bring results, leading to an important partnership or business venture. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Financial problems will develop if you get involved in a joint venture. You aren't likely to have the same spending and savings habits as the people you do business with. You may be wise to rethink partnerships that influence money matters. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be pulled into a partnership or forced play that leaves you with no choice but to work alongside someone who doesn't think like you. Learn from this experience. Fair will be the operative term when it comes to dealing with others. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on home and family and how you can make the most of what you've got. Concern for your future will be genuine but may put you in an awkward position. Make your thoughts available to a loved one. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If things haven't been going your way, get rid of the obstacles holding you back. You have plenty to gain from making adjustments. A chance to be around someone who fuels your imagination and inspires you to advance must not be bypassed. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		4	9		8	3				
2	3			7						
		5				1	8		2	
		1	3				5	9		
6		8	9					7		
					5				2	4
3		4								
			7	3		6	1			

Difficulty Level ★ 4/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	3	7	1	6	5	8	2
8	1	5	9	2	4	6	3	7
2	7	6	5	8	3	9	1	4
4	2	9	1	3	7	8	6	5
5	3	8	2	6	9	7	4	1
1	6	7	8	4	5	2	9	3
6	9	2	3	7	1	4	5	8
7	5	1	4	9	8	3	2	6
3	8	4	6	5	2	1	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect to face opposition and additional responsibilities. It may be easier to walk away but, in the end, it will only lead to more difficulties. Take care of pressing matters before you are left with few alternatives. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There will be so many people you know who will want to jump in and help you now. Accept whatever is being offered. Good things are heading your way and you must be ready to step up and make the most of the opportunities. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can improve your position as well as your skills. It's a good time to consider how you have earned your living in the past and currently, and how you would like to proceed in the future. Love and romance are highlighted. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are big-hearted, open, receptive toward others and a true friend who attracts great popularity.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THERE'S A BULL MARKET COMING Solution: 9 letters

T	I	N	M	E	S	I	R	D	E	M	O	C	N	I
R	S	R	I	E	R	A	H	S	N	D	N	U	F	P
O	E	E	L	A	W	O	R	G	M	A	N	R	B	U
T	D	L	R	C	G	N	I	S	I	R	M	R	O	O
S	E	E	P	E	A	K	I	R	T	K	O	E	N	R
E	R	V	D	E	T	M	A	E	S	S	O	N	D	G
V	C	U	I	A	I	N	Q	E	A	I	B	C	S	A
N	B	A	C	T	R	U	I	R	F	B	S	Y	A	N
I	U	S	P	N	I	T	K	R	E	G	D	V	S	A
T	Y	O	E	T	I	S	E	C	N	P	E	N	S	L
R	I	E	Y	R	T	S	O	I	O	R	O	S	E	Y
E	N	F	U	R	U	V	N	P	A	T	U	R	T	S
N	G	C	O	L	E	R	O	G	I	V	S	T	T	I
D	E	N	T	R	A	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E	S
S	G	S	Y	E	P	V	C	O	N	S	U	M	E	R

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Analysis, Asset, Average, Bonds, Boom, Buying, Consumer, Currency, Demand, Earnings, Equity, Fast, Fund, Gain, Generate, Group, Grow, Income, Incur, Interest, Investor, Optimism, Pace, Peak, Positive, Profit, Recovery, Reports, Results, Return, Rise, Rising, Risk, Securities, Sell, Send, Share, Stock, Strong, Term, Traded, Trends, Value, Vigor

Last Saturday's Answer: Composition

To solve the puzzle, circle the letters in the puzzle that spell the words listed below. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword. © 2011 Universal Uclick. www.wonderword.com. Join us on Facebook 4/4

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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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WHATZIT Solution:
A miss is as good as a mile

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Looking for water truck, 3k to 3.5k gals/cap. Must be in good cond. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317 look for Jeremy or Norma

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2011

Opening date: March 21, 2011 **Closing date: April 4, 2011**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Position:

(1) ARFF Mechanic-III (Saipan)	(2) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Secretary-II (Saipan)	(1) Administrative Assistant (Port of Saipan)
(3) Ports Police Trainee (Saipan)	(1) Custodial/Maint.-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Staff Attorney (Saipan)	(1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)
(1) Accountant-I (Saipan)	(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Tinian)
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)	
(1) Port Development & Operations Specialist (Port of Saipan)	

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 111-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2011.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON-GUERRERO**
Executive Director

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• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MISS MILE

Find today's solution in this section

UConn holds on for 56-55 win over Kentucky



HOUSTON (AP)—When the options boil down to winning or heading home, nobody's better than Kemba and Connecticut.

Kemba Walker scored 18 points Saturday night to lift UConn to its 10th straight victory since finishing off a .500 Big East regular season, a 56-55 win over cold-shooting Kentucky that moved the Huskies a victory away from their third, and most improbable, NCAA title.

Walker, a quick-handed junior from the Bronx, added seven assists and six rebounds to help the young UConn team (31-9) extend a winning streak that started with a five-wins-in-five-nights leg-drainer at the conference tournament and now includes five more at the tournament that really counts.

The third-seeded Huskies—second lowest seed left in a tournament that has been as unpredictable as any in history—will face No. 8 Butler, a 70-62 winner over 11th-seeded VCU in the first semifinal, on Monday.

"The guys decided they didn't want to go home; this is too much fun," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said.

But this win, which improved Calhoun to 5-1 in his four Final Four appearances, was not a work of art on either end.

Fourth-seeded Kentucky (29-9) shot 33.9 percent for the game and went 5:39 without a point late in the second half. UConn wasn't much better, but Walker, Alex Oriakhi and Shabazz Napier all made baskets to turn a 48-48 tie into a 54-48 lead with 2:29 left.

DeAndre Liggins made a 3-pointer for the Wildcats to cut the deficit to three, and Kentucky had its chances. But Brandon Knight, one of John Calipari's three sensational freshmen, barely drew iron on a 3-pointer. After Kentucky got the rebound, Liggins drew a foul but only hit one of two free throws.

Kentucky forced one more turnover and went for the win, but this time, it was Liggins whose 3-pointer was short.

"I should have drove it," Liggins said. "It was a good shot, but it fell short."

Napier made two free throws to make it 56-52, then Knight ended the game with a 3-pointer at the buzzer—a meaningless make and a cruel close to what has otherwise been a remarkable season for Calipari and Co.—Kentucky's first trip to the Final Four since winning it all in 1998. The Wildcats, the nation's all-time winningest program, stayed stuck on 105 NCAA-tournament wins in the program history, still tied for first with North Carolina, the team they beat to get here.

"We held a pretty good team to 56 points," Calipari said. "I hate to tell you, we talked about if we defend them this way, they're going score around 56 points, maybe 60. I just didn't think we'd score 55."

The Huskies have won by one, by two, by three, by five and more on this unexpected postseason run. Before that, Calhoun's roster full of freshmen lived down to expectations by going 9-9 in their conference. But the Huskies haven't lost since falling to Notre Dame to close the regular season on Feb. 5.

UConn wasn't nearly as dominating here in Houston as in its 84-67 victory over Kentucky in November at the



Connecticut's Roscoe Smith, second from left and teammates react after beating Kentucky, 56-55, at a men's NCAA Final Four semifinal college basketball game Saturday, April 2, 2011, in Houston.

Maui Invitational. But a win's a win, and nobody does it better than UConn when it's all-or-nothing. Counting that relatively low-key get-together on the island, the Huskies are 13-0 in tournament games this season.

Next up: A meeting with Butler, the small school from Indianapolis that was last year's runner-up. But after this one, it was UConn sounding like the plucky underdog.

"We gonna shock the world," the Huskies chanted as they sprinted to their locker room.

Nobody's surprised by Walker anymore.

Kentucky did a decent job containing him with its zone, which forced the Huskies to be more patient and look for second options. Jeremy Lamb was the most obvious one. The freshman, whose father Ronaldo made a game-winning shot to knock Calhoun out of the tournament when he was coaching at Northeastern in 1984, had 12 points, including a fancy scooping layup with 2:29 left to put the Huskies ahead by six.

From there, it was a hectic, hard-fought finish that included few baskets and even fewer breaks. The teams played nearly five straight minutes without a whistle, and the 4-minute media timeout didn't come until there was a bit more than 120 seconds left.

The quick pace might have made some legs tired and had something to do with Kentucky coming up short on some of those key shots late. There wasn't much of an explanation, though, for the 9-for-32 shooting in the first half. The Wildcats trailed 31-21 at the break, their lowest first-half output of the season.

"I just think we missed a bunch of open shots," Kentucky senior Josh Harrellson said. "We had good looks, and we just weren't knocking anything down. ... We just couldn't make anything."

Knight finished 6 for 23 with 17 points, Doron Lamb had 13 on 5-for-10 shooting. But the Wildcats made only 21 field goals, only nine from 3-point range and shot 4 for 12 from the free-throw line.

Calipari barely lost this latest match-up against Calhoun—a showdown between a couple of coaches who haven't

hidden their dislike for each other, dating to the day when Calipari was at UMass in the 1990s and moving in on Calhoun's turf.

"We had our chance to win the game, and as a coach, that's all you can ask of these young people," Calipari said. "Give us a chance, and we had an opportunity."

While Calhoun has become a fixture at UConn—in his fourth Final Four—Calipari has moved around. This year, he joined Rick Pitino as only the second coach to take three different programs to the sport's biggest stage.

He said he'd prefer talent over experience any day. His ability to bring this group of freshmen this far was remarkable, given that this was considered something of a rebuilding year for the Wildcats, who lost John Wall and four others to the NBA draft after last season.

Calhoun could tell the same story. He

wasn't expected to do much this year and was depending mainly on his star, Walker, to shoulder the load. It worked early in the season, but teams figured out how to limit him in the Big East—as grueling a conference as there is.

Walker has been electric in leading the Huskies this far in the tournament, though, averaging 26 points a game on the road to the Final Four. Did he think something like this was possible?

"Man, probably not in the beginning of the season because I wasn't thinking about it," he said. "As the season went on in the Big East and the first game in the NCAA's, I saw the teams that we could possibly play, I knew we had a chance."

Butler 70, VCU 62

At Houston, Shelvin Mack wasn't daunted by playing on college basketball's biggest stage.

After all, this was nothing new

for Butler.

Mack scored 24 points, including 10 straight in a key second-half run, and the Bulldogs beat Virginia Commonwealth 70-62 on Saturday night for their second straight trip to the title game.

"We're just looking forward to the game on Monday," Mack said with a huge smile.

The junior seemed perfectly comfortable from the start, then stepped up in the second half when most of his team was struggling on offense. Butler led by one before Mack outscored VCU 10-4 in a stretch covering just over 2 minutes, the lead swelling to 54-47.

He was 5 of 6 from beyond the 3-point line.

"He was a killer tonight," VCU coach Shaka Smart said. "He stepped up and made some huge, huge shots, especially from beyond the arc."

Mack shared the spotlight with Matt Howard, who had 17 points, to give America's favorite underdogs another shot at the national championship.

The pair talked after the game about how it felt playing in the Final Four again.

"Tonight it's just like any game, weirdly enough," Howard said. "In our minds I don't think we let our surroundings get to us. It didn't feel like a national semifinal."

Butler lost to Duke in last year's title game when a half-court shot by Gordon Hayward bounced off the rim at the buzzer. Hayward left school early for the NBA, leaving Mack and Howard to lead the Bulldogs deep into this year's NCAA tournament.

The sting of that loss has stayed with this team.

"This is great, but we're not going not going to settle on just getting back," teammate Zach Hahn said. "I remember the sour taste it left in my mouth last year and I just think this group, we're here now and we have a chance. That's all you can ask."

Rose leads Bulls over Raptors, 113-106



CHICAGO (AP)—Derrick Rose had 36 points and 10 assists as the Chicago Bulls took another step toward the top seed in the Eastern Conference with their 15th victory in 17 games, hanging on to beat the short-handed Toronto Raptors 113-106 on Saturday.

The Bulls lead Miami by three games and Boston by 3 1/2. They also are within one of San Antonio for the NBA's best record after squeezing by one of the league's weakest teams.

Tom Thibodeau broke Phil Jackson's club record for wins by a first-year coach as the Bulls improved to 56-20.

Carlos Boozer added 18 points and 10 rebounds despite early foul trouble. Luol Deng scored 17 points, Taj Gibson had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Kyle Korver came up big down the stretch to finish with 10 points.

Jerryd Bayless and DeMar DeRozan each scored 26 points for Toronto.

Warriors 99, Mavericks 92

At Oakland, California, Monta Ellis had 32 points and David Lee added 16 as Golden State beat Dallas to

deliver a big blow to the Mavericks' chances of moving up to second in the Western Conference.

Ellis shook off the pain in his strained right ankle to score 18 points in a dominant third quarter that helped the Warriors pull away. Golden State avoided a four-game sweep against Dallas this season.

Shawn Marion had 21 points and Jason Terry added 17 in Dallas' second straight loss.

Grizzlies 106, Timberwolves 89

At Memphis, Tennessee, Zach Randolph scored 22 points as Memphis won its fourth straight and seventh in eight games to move a half-game ahead of New Orleans for seventh place in the Western Conference.

O.J. Mayo added 20 points, Tony Allen had 12, Leon Powe finished with 11, and Marc Gasol had 10 points and nine rebounds. Michael Beasley led Minnesota with 20 points. The Timberwolves have lost 10 straight.

Clippers 98, Thunder 92

At Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had

26 points and 16 rebounds, and Eric Gordon capped an 18-point effort with a go-ahead 3-pointer with 43.2 seconds left as Los Angeles edged Oklahoma City.

Kevin Durant scored 23 points for Oklahoma City, shooting 10 for 24 overall and 0 for 4 from 3-point range. The last time the Clippers hosted the Thunder, they beat them 107-92 on Nov. 3 for the only victory in their 1-13 start. Durant was 0 for 10 from behind the arc that night and 6 for 24 overall with a season-low 16 points.

Bucks 93, 76ers 87, OT

At Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored nine of his 13 points in overtime for Milwaukee after missing a 3-pointer at the regulation buzzer.

The Bucks kept their faint playoff hopes alive and snapped Philadelphia's three-game winning streak. Milwaukee is 3 1/2 games behind Indiana for eighth place in the Eastern Conference with six games left.

Elton Brand had 20 points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia. The 76ers wrapped up a playoff spot Friday night with a victory over New Jersey.

Huff, Sanchez power Giants past Dodgers, 10-0



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Matt Cain scattered five hits over six innings, and Aubrey Huff and Freddy Sanchez drove in three runs each as the San Francisco Giants defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-0 Saturday for their first win of the season.

Miguel Tejada added two RBIs for the defending World Series champions, who had committed five errors in dropping a pair of one-run games to the rival Dodgers. But they backed Cain with ample offense and clean defense to avoid equaling their worst start since moving to San Francisco in 1958.

Phillies 9, Astros 4

At Philadelphia, Cliff Lee struck out 11 batters over seven impressive innings in his first game back with the Phillies.

A day after rallying against closer Brandon Lyon for a comeback win in the ninth, the Phillies roughed up starter Wandy Rodriguez.

Padres 11, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Clayton Richard (1-0) had two RBIs and pitched six solid innings in San Diego's win over St. Louis.

Albert Pujols homered on the 10th anniversary of his major league debut and Allen Craig, subbing for ailing Matt Holliday, had a two-run single for the Cardinals. St. Louis led 2-0 after one inning and 3-2 after three but Jake Westbrook (0-1) was knocked out after retiring only one of six batters in the Padres' six-run sixth.

Nationals 6, Braves 3

At Washington, Rick Ankiel drove in three runs with a homer and squeeze bunt, and Jayson Werth and Wilson Ramos each had three hits as Washington beat Atlanta.

In a game that included two rain delays totaling 87 minutes, Ankiel's two-run homer highlighted a three-run third inning off Tommy Hanson (0-1). Ankiel put down his bunt in the seventh.

Cubs 5, Pirates 3

At Chicago, pinch-hitter Blake DeWitt delivered a two-out, two-run double that capped a five-run eighth inning for Chicago to top Pittsburgh.

Chicago's comeback against relievers Evan Meek and Chris Resop was aided by a costly error on Pirates first baseman Lyle Overbay.

Reds 4, Brewers 2

At Cincinnati, Scott Rolen hit a two-run homer in the first inning, eliminating the need for another dramatic Cincinnati comeback as the Reds beat Milwaukee behind seven strong innings from left-hander Travis Wood.

The defending NL Central champions are 2-0 for the first time since 2005, when they swept an opening three-game series from the Mets.

Mets 6, Marlins 4, 10 innings

At Miami, David Wright's third hit of the game brought Jose Reyes home with the go-ahead run in the 10th, Willie Harris added a two-run single later in the inning and New York beat Florida.

Wright also homered for the Mets, who got a three-hit night from Josh Thole and two hits from Ike Davis.

Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 1

At Denver, Jorge De La Rosa scattered three harmless singles and drove in a run



San Francisco Giants' Freddy Sanchez, right, is greeted by teammate Eli Whiteside after hitting a home run against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Saturday, April 2, 2011.

AP

before leaving in the sixth inning with a blister on his left middle finger as Colorado beat Arizona.

With De La Rosa day to day, the Rockies' top two pitchers are now dealing with injuries. Ace Ubaldo Jimenez has a cracked cuticle on this right thumb that was the culprit in his shaky debut Friday and could force him to miss his next start.

Yankees 10, Tigers 6

At New York, A.J. Burnett took a steady first step as he aims to bounce back from a wobbly season and Mark Teixeira hit his second three-run homer in two games to send the New York Yankees to victory over the Detroit Tigers.

Russell Martin also smacked a three-run shot, Alex Rodriguez hit No. 614 and Derek Jeter began his

march toward 3,000 hits with his first two of the season.

White Sox 8, Indians 3

At Cleveland, Edwin Jackson extended his mastery of Cleveland, and Gordon Beckham and Carlos Quentin had two RBIs apiece for Chicago.

Jackson, who was 8-0 in his last nine starts against Cleveland, allowed two earned runs and five hits in six innings. He had one shaky frame, and that wasn't all his fault as two errors on one play by third baseman Brent Morel helped the Indians score two in the second.

Royals 5, Angels 4

At Kansas City, Missouri, Chris Getz had three hits, including an RBI single for the go-ahead run in the eighth inning,

as Kansas City rallied past Los Angeles.

Rookie Aaron Crow (1-0) pitched 1 2-3 innings for the victory, his first as a major leaguer. Kevin Jepsen (0-1) took the loss as the Angels' bullpen faltered for the third straight day.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 1

At Toronto, Kyle Drabek pitched seven innings of one-hit ball to earn his first major league win, and Jose Molina and Jayson Nix hit solo home runs to help Toronto beat Minnesota.

Drabek (1-0), who went 0-3 in three starts last September, allowed one run, walked three and struck out a career-high seven.

Orioles 3, Rays 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Chris Tillman held Tampa Bay hitless for six innings

and Nick Markakis made a leaping catch at the wall in the ninth to preserve the win for Baltimore.

Tillman lost his bid for a no-hitter when manager Buck Showalter lifted him after the 22-year-old right-hander threw 101 pitches. B.J. Upton lined a two-out single off Jeremy Accardo (1-0) for Tampa Bay's first hit with two outs in the seventh.

Mariners 5, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, Ichiro Suzuki had two infield hits to become Seattle's career leader, including a bouncer in the ninth that drove in the go-ahead run.

Suzuki reached on an infield single in the third, then did it again with his record-breaking hit off Brian Fuentes (0-1) that drove in Jack Wilson and made it 3-2 Mariners.

Mickelson ties record, takes lead in Houston



HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Phil Mickelson shot his lowest round

in two years on Saturday, tying the course record with a 9-under 63 to share the lead with Scott Verplank after three rounds at the Houston Open.

Verplank shot his second straight 65 to catch Mickelson at 13-under par.

Aaron Baddeley (66) and second-round leader Chris Kirk (69) were one stroke back, and defending champion Anthony Kim and David Hearn (66) were two behind.

Mickelson, the defending champion at next week's Masters, equaled the record score set by Johnson Wagner and Adam Scott in 2008 and matched by Jimmy Walker on Thursday. It was Lefty's best score since a 62 in the third round at the 2009 Northern Trust Open, which he won.

"To get a good round like this means a lot," Mickelson said. "Also, to have the challenge to be in contention, to be in the final group, have an opportunity to win, I really enjoy that opportunity. I think it's good for me to be in that position heading into next week, too."

Mickelson has won the last four

events during which had a round of 64 or better, dating to the 2006 Bell-South Classic. That year, he earned his second green jacket the following week and is the last player to win the event before Augusta and the Masters in the same year.

The Houston Open became the run-up tournament to the Masters in 2007, and Mickelson is here for the fourth straight year. He practiced at Augusta earlier this week, and only arrived in Houston on Wednesday, bypassing the chance to play warmup rounds at Redstone.

He said winning the week before the '06 Masters gave him a valuable boost, and he sees no disadvantage in trying to duplicate that feat.

"People have talked about winning the week before a major as not necessarily the greatest thing, because it takes away energy, or what have you," Mickelson said. "I felt like in '06, it was really a benefit to gain the momentum and confidence of winning a golf tournament right before, especially the Masters."

Organizers have tried to groom the Redstone course to simulate the conditions players will see next week, and Mickelson said that creates a smooth

transition to Augusta.

But Mickelson is more concerned this weekend with improving his shot visualization than practicing shots he'll see at the Masters. He had shot only four sub-70 rounds in his previous four events.

"What I'm working on is what I did best today, which was really seeing the shot and executing and holding that picture throughout the swing," Mickelson said. "I probably did that better today than I have in a long time."

Mickelson switched between two drivers—with different lengths and lofts—on the practice range before his round. He's leaning toward having both in his bag at Augusta next week.

"There's a good chance I'll have that," Mickelson said.

Mickelson birdied three of his first four holes on Saturday, under cloudy skies with virtually no wind.

Paired with Lee Westwood, he lost his tee shot left on No. 6, a dogleg left. Mickelson took a drop out of a native area, but then saved par by holing a 50-yard pitch from behind the green.

When the ball disappeared, Westwood's caddie, Billy Foster, kneeled and bowed to Mickelson in joking homage as the huge gallery exploded

into a loud roar.

"It could've really been bad," Mickelson said. "I'm just fighting not to have it be a double (bogey), and be a momentum killer. When that chip went in, it really propelled me to play the last 12 holes good."

Mickelson birdied the par-5 8th, then sank a 22-footer on the par-3 9th to reach 9 under. He dropped his 100-yard approach to No. 10 within 9 feet and made that putt, completing a stretch of eight birdies in 16 holes spanning the second and third rounds.

"A fun round," Mickelson said. "I got off to a good start, birdied the first hole and was able to kind of maintain the momentum."

Verplank is making only his fourth start of the year as he continues to cope with a sore left wrist, the result of a degenerative condition. He's somehow still managed to hit 34 of 42 fairways this week and is tied with Baddeley for second among the field in total putts (80).

"The pain obviously bothers everybody in different ways," he said, "but the thing that's bothered me with my golf has been the loss of stability."

Mickelson or Verplank, both over 40, could buck two trends on tour. A player in his 20s has won each of the last three weeks, and three events this year have had first-time winners.

Weekend Sports

After giving way to triathletes during the two-week-end 2011 Saipan Sportsfest, CNMI tennis players reclaimed the center stage last week.

Junior and adult players alike traded serves and volleys during the 11th Annual PIC Tennis Championships at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

In the junior singles, ruling their respective divisions were U12's Colin Ramsey and Tammy Ackerman, U15's Christian Miller and Chloe Gadsden, and U18's Rafael Jones and Thea Minor.

In the adults doubles, leading the winners circle were Jeff

Netters back to spotlight

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Race and Peter Loyola, who survived Peter Loken and Lope Padilla in the three-set finale. Other doubles champions were men's 4.0's Amami Sakano and Tony Choi, 3.0's Ackerman and Joy Minor and Carl Dela Cruz and Emie Henson, and women's open's Minor and Gadsden.

Still in tennis, former CNMI No. 1 junior player continued to have a strong showing in

collegiate tennis, as he helped Hawaii Pacific University advance in the 2011 NCAA National Championship.

Other significant events last week were the 2011 Saipan-Settsu Friendship Basketball Tournament, the NMIFA's men's and youth leagues, the Father Manny Memorial Golf Classic, the 15th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tour-

namment, and the 2011 XTER-RA Guam.

Kagman High School won the boys championship in the Saipan-Settsu caging after beating the MISO All-Stars, 81-63, while the Marianas High School Dolphins prevailed over Settsu in the girls finals, 68-56.

After the championship Association of Northern Mari-

ana Islands donated ticket sales from the three-day tournament to the tsunami-torn Japan through the Rotary Club of Saipan.

In the NMIFA men's league, MP United and Inter Godfather's shared Division A league after recording a win and a draw, respectively. In the youth league, MP United is also in the lead in the boys U18 and U15,

while Matansa is on top in the girls U15.

In the Father Manny fundraising golf tournament, 55 players tested the greens and fairways of Marianas Country Club with Frank Sablan besting the field after shooting a net 70.

Tinian dominated the 15th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament on Saipan after sweeping the team, doubles, and singles competitions against the hosts and Guam.

In the 2011 XTERRA Guam, Mieke Carey won in the women's division for her second title since 2008, while Sam Gardner completed a sweep after ruling the men's category.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Amy Sletten stretches for a return at the baseline during her and Nina Engelhardt's doubles game against Thea Minor and Chloe Gadsden in the PIC tournament.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Winners in the Father Manny Memorial Golf Classic pose for a group photo at the Marianas Country Club.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lope Padilla serves, while teammate Peter Loken looks on during their men's open doubles championship match against Jeff Race and Peter Loyola in the PIC tournament last week.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the 15th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony at Canton Restaurant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mieke Carey, right, poses with Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara before the start of the 2011 XTERRA Guam.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Settsu Red Impulse and Saipan players pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the Settsu-Saipan caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United and Paire players exchange hi-fives after their game in the NMIFA youth league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kimball tops SSC Meek and Mighty

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REPORTER

The shortest swimmer in the longest race of the day proved to be the fastest, as the diminutive Andrew Kimball ruled the five-kilometer event in the 6th Annual Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday.



The swimmer, who stands less than five feet, completed the Mighty race in one hour, 17 minutes, and 11 seconds to beat four other participants. Kimball won over Victoria Chentsova (1:19:55), sister Grace (1:22:56), Carol Lynn Pierce (1:30:31), and Gary Guzman. Guzman stopped swimming after completing three of the five-lap race due to a minor shoulder injury. However, he recovered and did one more lap, accompanying Pierce to the finish line.

Andrew Kimball's winning time was a bit slower from his 1:08:24 last year when he placed second to Andres Butrago (1:00:19) in the Mighty division. Andrew and several other swimmers had a slow



Andrew Kimball heads to the shore after completing the five-kilometer race in the 6th Annual Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday.

Lizama wins MMAC golf tourney

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Ben Lizama shot a net 70.6 to win the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer's fundraising

golf tournament on a rainy Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Lizama took home \$500 and a golf bag for his efforts on the west course of the Kagman facility. The 20.4-handicapper scored a 47 on the front and

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Ben Lizama, right, smiles after receiving the first place prize from MMAC chairman Dave Guerrero at the conclusion of the Marianas March Against Cancer golf tournament on Saturday at the Laolao Golf Resort's Caladium Banquet Hall.

QQ Cup eyes April 24 opening

BY WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Basketball Cup is expected to kick off its 2011 season on

April 24 at the Garapan Basketball Court

"We have lined up some activities that you will never see in any other basketball leagues in the CNMI and these will make this year's QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup even more exciting than last year," tournament di-

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Villanueva retains top ranking in U12



Moris Villanueva returns to Colin Ramsey during their U12 singles finals game in the PIC tournament last week at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Junior tennis player Moris Villanueva stayed on top of the boys U12 ranking despite dropping his finals match in last week's 11th Annual PIC Tennis Championships on Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Based on the rankings list Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association released on Saturday, Villanueva has accumulated 3,000 points from four tournaments in the 2010-2011 season. He earned 750 rankings points from the PIC tournament after placing second to Colin Ramsey in the boys U12 finals. Villanueva topped the Coconut Classic, downing Ramsey to notch 1,000 points and the for-

mer also had 750 and 500 points from the DFS and Tan Holdings events, respectively.

Ramsey is not far behind Villanueva, as the Saipan Community School student is in second place with 2,550 points. Completing the Top 5 are Michael Ren (1,250), Michael Jones (1,100), Quintin Ramsey (1,000) and Luther Lizama (1,000).

The rankings could still change, as NMITA has one more tournament left in its calendar—the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships next weekend.

In the girls U12, Carol Lee also retained the top spot despite losing in the semifinals to eventual winner Tammy Ackerman last week. Lee has 3,000 to lead Emily Jones (2,850), Tammy Ackerman (2,500), Isabel Heras (1,900), and Sakura

See VILLANUEVA on Page 26



Docomo Pacific's Elmer Esdrelon, right, is defended by Ferrera's Kae Bernardo during Game 1 of their championship series in last year's QQ caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.